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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Would you support another round of austerity Fridays and unpaid holidays in government?

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INSIDE

Crane Accident

Part of a construction crane plummeted 30 floors at the site of a high-rise condominium in Miami, killing two.

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Miscarriage

The daughter of former Philippine president and democracy icon Corazon Aquino has suffered a miscarriage.

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Relatively Odd

Barack Obama is a distant cousin of Brad Pitt, and Hillary Rodham Clinton is related to Pitt's girlfriend, Angelina Jolie.

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Telesource offers to lend Tinian generators to Saipan

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Telesource CNMI, Inc. has come up with a novel plan to help alleviate the power crisis on Saipan—import generators from neighboring Tinian.

In a statement from the company's CEO and president Nidal Z. Zayed, Telesource is proposing to lend one of its diesel generators on Tinian to the CUC power plant in

RELATED NEWS

Rotating outages, engine repairs continue.

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Lower Base. Telesource operates the Tinian power plant.

"Our study shows that a temporary relocation of 10 MW from Tinian to Saipan is very feasible

and extremely beneficial to the island of Saipan and the people of the CNMI at large," he said.

Zayed said that Telesource is prepared to pay for the relocation, commissioning, maintenance, and operation of the

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Stanley resigns as PUTC chair

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Rep. Stanley T. Torres yesterday resigned as chairman of the Public Utilities and Telecommunications Committee because of what he perceives as too much meddling on the part of the House leadership on how the current power crisis in the CNMI should be handled by his office.



Torres

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SOCIAL SECURITY FORUM

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

U.S. Social Security Administration's Bridget DLG. Camacho answers question from participants about Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance during the 2008 Second Annual Consumer & Family Forum at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort yesterday. The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hosted the event.

Casino firm to time groundbreaking with Tinian fiesta

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Bridge Investment Group, LLC is looking at holding the groundbreaking for its Tinian Oceanview Resort and Condo-

miniums sometime in early May to coincide with the island's San Jose Fiesta.

This was confirmed yesterday by the company's vice president for CNMI operations, Phillip Mendiola-Long, in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

"We are looking at a fiesta (May 1-5) groundbreaking on Tinian. I should have a confirmation by mid-April," he said. "We will be submitting our full set of plans to DPW [Department of Public

See CASINO on Page 4

'Hawaii faces hurdles in luring more Chinese'

By SUDHIN THANAWALA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii faces significant obstacles in attracting more Chinese visitors to its shores, tourism experts say.

Hawaii tourism officials are looking to China and South Korea to help

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CONNECT

Local

Rotating outages, engine repairs continue

Saipan continued to experience rotating outages yesterday due to ongoing mechanical repairs on Engine No. 5 at

Power Plant 1.

Yesterday's high temperatures exacerbated the situation, resulting in increased power de-

mand as people turned on their air conditioning units.

"The power plants were not capable of generating the required

electrical power to adequately meet the demand, therefore load shedding was required," said the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in

a statement.

In addition, water services will be affected as the load-shedding schedule continues.

As of press time, there was no word from CUC as to when it expects to finish the repair work on the power engine.

CUC said that, as soon as it is capable of providing sufficient

electrical generation to meet the island demand, the rotating outage schedule would no longer be required.

"This assumes that no additional engine problems occur during this emergency repair and the [rotating outage] schedule may be altered by CUC as required," it said. (CUC)

POWER OUTAGE SCHEDULE

9:00am-11:00am

Feeder 7: Entire Feeder

Lower Base, Tanapag, San Roque, As Matuis Homestead, and Marpi Area.

11:00am-1:00pm

Kiya 1: Entire Feeder

Southern side of Chalan Kiya, As Terlaje, North parts of Fina Sisu, El Toro Dandan, Kannat Tabla, Airport Road,

San Vicente, Dandan, NMC School, Obyan, Laulau and Papago/Botanical Garden south Lower Dandan and Isley Field CPA/Airport and As Perdido

1:00pm-3:00pm

Feeder 4: Entire Feeder

Lower Base main power plant through Sadog Tasi, Capital Hill, Wireless Ridge, Denni, Agag, As Teo, all Kagman, and

portion of Papago

3:00pm-5:00pm

Feeder 2: Entire Feeder

CPA Seaport, Boating Safety, American Memorial Park, Lower Base, Puerto Rico and Garapan (Micro Beach Hotels). Duty Free area and Bank of Guam along Beach Road

5:00pm-7:00pm Kiya 4: Entire Feeder

Chalan Kiya Substation, San Jose, Susupe, and Chalan Kanoa Post Office

7:00pm-9:00pm

Kiya 2: Entire Feeder

San Antonio Village Afetnas, Southern Side of Koblerville and As Gonno

Source: Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Guam resort to pay \$243K to settle harassment case

GUAM—A Guam resort will pay \$243,000 in compensatory damages, attorneys' fees and costs to settle a same-sex sexual harassment and retaliation lawsuit brought by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the agency announced Tuesday.

In a rare federal employment case in Guam, the EEOC had charged that Leo Palace Resort subjected three female employees to a sexually harassing work environment and unlawfully retaliated against them for complaining about it.

In its 2006 lawsuit, the EEOC charged that three women employees at Leo Palace Resort were subjected to ongoing, sexually explicit verbal harassment by a female co-worker. The co-worker on several occasions also engaged in other sexually suggestive behavior around the three victims, such as using objects like rolled-up towels or balloons to simulate a male body part.

Further, the EEOC said, the female co-worker subjected the three victims to physical harassment, such as groping, grabbing, and rubbing against them. In addition, the agency says, Leo Palace Resort failed to take adequate steps to stop or prevent the harassment once it became aware of it, and instead retaliated against the employees who complained by forcing them to quit.

Sexual harassment, and retaliation for complaining about it, violate Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The EEOC filed suit in U.S. District Court for the District of Guam after first attempting to reach a vol-

untary settlement.

"I am glad about the outcome," said Rose Taimanglo, one of the harassment and retaliation victims. "My attorney and the EEOC listened to us and helped us get closure. I think this is a message to everyone that if you are treated unfairly it doesn't matter how big the company is—as long as you tell the truth, you will be heard." Taimanglo and the other two victims are represented by lawyer Phillip Torres.

Under the three-year consent decree signed by Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood, Leo Palace will pay \$243,000 in compensatory damages, attorneys' fees, and costs to the three victims.

As part of the injunctive relief, Leo Palace also will:

(1) provide annual training to its employees;

(2) revise its employment policies and procedures to conform to its obligations under Title VII; and

(3) provide semi-annual reports to the EEOC regarding its employment practices.

Olophius Perry, district director for the Los Angeles District Office, whose territory encompasses the Northern Mariana Islands, said, "Employers need to understand that they have an obligation to comply with U.S. law when they are operating within the United States or its territories. As part of its mission, the EEOC is available to provide training to employers to educate them about their obligations under federal equal employment opportunity laws."

Anna Park, the regional attorney, said.

See GUAM on Next Page

April is Jazz Appreciation Month

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela is scheduled to sign a proclamation today designating April as Jazz Appreciation Month.

The proclamation signing will be held at the Mayor's Office Conference room at 10am.

A collaborative effort between the Saipan Mayor's Office and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Jazz Appreciation Month observes and pays tribute to the founding fathers of jazz.

Through the efforts of the International Association of Jazz Educators and the American Federation of Musicians, 15 governors and several mayors in the U.S. have issued proclamations declaring April as Jazz

Appreciation Month in their jurisdictions.

In 2003, Congress passed PL 108-72 to commend the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History for establishing April as Jazz Appreciation Month, honoring jazz as a national and world treasure to be celebrated by leaders, institutions, educators and communities globally.

Completely genuine, born in America, appreciated worldwide, jazz is a beloved American art form popularized by the likes of Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington, and B.B. King. (Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)

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'IMC is to blame for its own predicament'

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Island Medical Center is in the state it is in right now because of either negligence,

recklessness or the intentional conduct of its management, according to the lawyer for the Department of Public Health.

DPH legal counsel Alexander Gorman said that the predicament with which some guest workers now find themselves in due to the clinic's closure should be blamed on the clinic's management.

"This unfortunate situation falls squarely on the shoulders of IMC," Gorman said.

IMC owner Antony Glad, in an earlier interview, expressed concerns for the guest workers who have no access to the results of their medical tests since DPH closed down the clinic on March 5 due to noncompliance with rules and regulations.

According to Gorman, though, "Mr. Glad was not concerned about the guest workers when his clinic was counterfeiting, falsifying and forging lab result records in support of health clearances."

Gorman said that, as a result of these unlawful conduct, "all of the recent health screening exam results are compromised, which will subject the workers and the employers to undergo and pay for new health screening exams at alternate clinics."

Glad had acknowledged that there "was an alleged forgery" but "we just don't know who was doing it."

"We're not agreeing that it happened, but we are not denying that it did happen," Glad said.

Glad suspects that it was his former accountant, Romeo Dolot, who tampered with patient health results. According to Glad, Dolot managed the clinic's financial accounts and daily operations.

Dolot fled Saipan on March 6, the day after the Bureau of Environmental Health shut down the clinic.

Glad had also complained why DPH closed down the clinic without informing him first, but DPH said: "It is the duty and responsibility of the management of DPH to swiftly [and] effectively protect the public from the unlawful conduct occurring at IMC."

The department said that the clinic was not informed in advance "because there was a need to preserve any and all evidence of the continuing unlawful conduct at the clinic."

DPH immediately appointed Linn H. Asper as hearing officer as soon as the closure came into effect. An administrative hearing was held March 14, during which both DPH and IMC had an opportunity to present evidence and present arguments through their respective legal counsels.

Asper issued her decision on March 19, 2008, finding that the summary suspension of the clinic's sanitary permit was lawful.

According to Gorman, a criminal investigation against

IMC and its management commenced and a criminal search warrant was issued and served on IMC. Pursuant to this warrant, evidence from the clinic were seized by the Criminal Division of the Office of the Attorney General.

Glad said he was never given the opportunity to re-enter his clinic since its closure and mentioned that there are more than 400 medical tests "trapped behind the clinic's doors."

Glad maintains that IMC was not given due process in connection with the suspension of the sanitary permit and closure of the clinic.

Gorman refuted this, saying that Glad's attorney was provided a copy of the decision on March 19 "so any assertions by Mr. Glad that he does not understand why these actions were

taken by DPH are questionable at best."

In her order, Asper stated that "the March 4, 2008, order of suspension of Sanitary Permit and closure of clinic, issued by DPH deputy secretary Lynn E. Tenorio against respondent Island Medical Center is affirmed."

DPH Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez advises any non-resident workers and/or their employers who are awaiting the issuance of health clearances by IMC to go to an alternate health clinic that performs these types of exams so as not to delay the issuance of their permits.

"It is important that those individuals that normally receive their medical care at IMC get continued care at either CHC or any of the private clinics to ensure continuity of care," Villagomez said, especially for those facing pressing health issues. "They must be addressed now rather than to wait for the reopening of IMC."

RP consul general says he is aware of duties to nationals

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Philippine Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo told businessman Tony Glad yesterday that his office knows the "depth and breadth" of its duties and responsibilities to Filipino nationals in the CNMI and defended its track record in looking after their welfare.

"The Philippine Consulate General is well aware of its duties and responsibilities to its nationals, foremost among which is attending to their welfare. This includes, among other things, coming to their defense in instances when they are being disparaged by a clearly identifiable source, as in your case," said Maximo in a letter to the Island Medical Center owner dated March 25.

The Philippine government's chief representative to the Commonwealth also said he is prepared to accept Glad's statement that it was not the businessman's intention to hurt anyone during his interview with KSPN 2 last March 14.

However, Maximo took issue with Glad's recent remarks that, instead of issuing statements critical of him, the Consul General should do more to help Filipino workers affected by the closure of Island Medical Center.

"As to ensuring that Filipino workers' rights are being protected, the fact that the Philippine Consulate General [on] Saipan is one of the few Philippine [p]osts that has an attached Labor Office should be clear indication of the seriousness with

which the Philippine government views its responsibilities to workers in the islands."

Maximo added, "We need not issue a press statement for each instance we come to the aid of the thousands of Filipino workers that come to our offices for assistance or the number of times we coordinate with local authorities to look into the numerous ongoing labor or criminal cases involving Filipino nationals."

The Consul General concluded that he hopes Glad's recent statement is not an attempt to transfer to the Philippine Consulate General his own responsibility for his employees and clients.

"We know where our duties lie. And we assure you that we will remain faithful to our mandate," he said.

The issue between the two arose after Glad commented in a TV interview that, "It is typical of the Filipinos... when they have problems... they [dis]appear and leave for some reasons."

Glad was discussing the sudden disappearance of his Filipino accounts manager, Romeo Dolot, a day after the Department of Public Health closed down the Island Medical Center on March 5 due to alleged noncompliance with rules and regulations.

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GUAM

From Page 2

ney for the EEOC's Los Angeles District Office, added, "Employers will be held responsible for allowing a sexually harassing environment to continue. Once an employer becomes aware of sexual harassment, it needs to do all it can to address and correct the situation. Properly training supervisors, managers, and human resources personnel about how to respond to sexual harassment complaints will help to promptly address and correct the situation. That's why the injunctive relief in this case, which requires, in part, that Leo Palace train its employees about their obligations and rights under Title VII, is so important." (EEOC)

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Turn off all lights for an hour on 'Earth Hour'

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
Rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To promote electricity conservation and lower carbon emissions, the Tan Holdings Corp. is inviting the community to turn off their lights and non-essential electrical appliances for one hour on the evening of March 29, at 8pm local time.

Century Insurance Corp. president David Sablan was appointed by Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan to lead the group of companies in participating in the Earth Hour program, which will fall on a Saturday.

The Earth Hour project was initiated by the CTSI Office in Manila Philippines, which, Sablan said, is very active in "going green."

Sablan said he had sent a message

to all affiliate companies under Tan Holdings, urging them to participate in the Earth Hour event, except for the three hotels—Century Hotel, Fiesta Resort and Spa, and the Saipan Grand Hotel.

"Hotels are more active during the night time so I waived their participation," Sablan said.

Hotels Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Lynn Knight said she does not think it is feasible for hotels to do this at 8pm on a Saturday night.

"It will interrupt dinner shows, restaurant operations, etc., and would also pose potential safety hazards for tourists staying in hotels," Knight said.

She added that communicating the



Sablan

event to tourists of various nationalities would subject the hotels to a number of complaints and "it will in fact be an economic hardship to the hotels to shut down restaurant operations that prime hour on a weekend."

"I will do it at home, but I don't think it's wise to do it in hotels," Knight said.

Sablan acknowledged that hotels are more active during the evening so he has waived the participation of the hotels.

Sablan said he strongly urges the participation of other members of the community to participate in the Earth Hour event "so that we can at least be a part of this overall program that is being internationally covered."

When asked if one hour would make a difference, Sablan said: "Maybe not significantly, but it can take some load off the consumption of oil and air pollution that comes out of power generating engines."

Sablan said the Earth Hour event seeks to raise awareness that such programs exist and that if one participates and complies with other rules and regulations related to the program, subsequent programs "will probably become more meaningful."

Earth Hour is an international event that asks households and businesses to turn off their lights and non-essential electrical appliances for one hour on the evening to promote electricity conservation.

It is promoted by World Wide Fund for Nature Australia, an environ-

mental lobby group, and the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

The first Earth Hour was held in Sydney, Australia between 7:30pm and 8:30pm on March 31, 2007. It was estimated to have cut Sydney's electricity consumption by between 2.1 percent and 10.2 percent for that hour, with as many as 2.2 million people taking part.

Sablan said that he will "most definitely" be participating in the Earth Hour event at home.

"But maybe we don't have to worry about that. In the event that nobody will participate, I'm quite sure CUC will do us a favor [by turning off the lights itself]," Sablan laughed.

Disclaimer: The Saipan Tribune is an affiliate of Tan Holdings Corp.

HAWAII

From Page 1

offset continuing declines in the number of visitors from Japan, the state's largest source of foreign tourists.

But Frank Haas of the University of Hawaii travel school says other destinations such as Singapore, Guam and Saipan are also vying for Chinese travelers.

Among Hawaii's obstacles is a lack of direct flights from China and its status as a leisure destination.

Many of the 41 million outbound trips from China last year were for

business, and about 90 percent of those were to other destinations in Asia, Haas said.

Chinese tourists accounted for 56,000 of the 7.4 million visitors who came to Hawaii in 2007. More than 1.3 million Japanese visited Hawaii the same year.

Unlike Japanese visitors, the Chinese must also obtain a visa, which can be an arduous process.

"There is a heck of a lot of potential from China, but it's not simply going to fall from the sky into our laps," Haas said.

Haas was part of a panel discussing Chinese tourism to Hawaii on

Tuesday that included State Tourism Liaison Marsha Wienert and Hawaiian Airlines Senior Director of Asia-Pacific Business Development Dan Burruss.

Burruss said the number of American carriers that can operate in China is limited by an agreement between the U.S. government and China. Hawaiian Airlines unsuccessfully lobbied a few years ago to break into the Chinese market with a Honolulu-Shanghai flight, he said.

"We realized early on that this is a route that has huge potential," he said.

Although the airline is not giving up, Burruss said it faces an uphill bat-

tle. It has to show U.S. regulators that Hawaii-China flights greatly benefit American travelers.

Panelists Tuesday said the state also faces challenges in catering to Chinese visitors.

Ted Sturdivant of the Hawaii Chinese Tourism Association said many visitors from the Asian nation do not find the Chinese food in Hawaii to be exceptional.

And Haas said Chinese tourists have raised concerns about discrimination and a lack of local knowledge of Chinese customs.

Wienert said private businesses have developed Chinese language and cul-

tural training programs. She said the Hawaii Tourism Authority is interested in partnering with Kapiolani Community College to provide basic Chinese language and cultural skills to the hospitality industry.

Wienert said an agreement between the U.S. and China that is expected to go into effect later this year would allow U.S. companies to actively market and advertise travel destinations in China and permit Chinese leisure travel in groups to the U.S.

U.S. officials have said they will try to expedite the visa process for Chinese visitors if the agreement goes into effect, she said.

CASINO

From Page 1

Works] and CRM [Coastal Resources Management] for master site permits in the second week of April."

Mendiola-Long said that Bridge Investment's construction company, Tian Yuan Overseas Ltd, is currently working with the Department of Commerce to register as a foreign corporation operating in the CNMI.

"Once they are approved, they will be processing 20-30 labor contracts for

their logistics team to prepare for the beginning of construction," he said.

In addition, the Bridge Investment executive said that staff from their local architecture and engineering team, Herman Cabrera and Associates, will be traveling to China next week to conduct a final review and pick up the amended setup plans designed to meet all U.S. and CNMI codes.

The Tinian Oceanview Resort and Condominiums project is estimated to cost \$40-\$60 million. It includes plans to construct a 301-room hotel and casino resort on Tinian as well as 268

condominium rooms. It will be built on 75,000 square feet of land that the company has leased for 55 years.

Aside from Herman B. Cabrera and Associates, Bridge Investment has also contracted the office of Mailman & Kara; certified public accountant Bruce McMillan; Marianas Development Corp. as its grounds maintenance firm; Power Buildings International as its local construction firm; FPA Inc. for ground clearing; and Marianas Environmental Services to work on its master site permit, environmental

study, and prepare its report for the Historic Preservation Office.

Bridge Investment is a company formed by U.S.-mainland based investors Erik F. Wang, Rudy Pamintuan, Howard Li, Ken Wong, Akshay Desai, and Rocky Li. The company said it has offices in five countries—Japan, Korea, China, U.S., and Russia.

Bridge Investment recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its 2,600-square-foot local office at the top floor of the Bank of Guam building on Tinian.

Mendiola-Long said that Bridge In-

vestment spent quite a bit of money renovating the entire floor of the building. He opted not to disclose the actual cost of the project.

The Tinian headquarters houses seven different offices and includes a main conference room and a design site area for the company's construction firm. The centerpiece of the design site area is a scale model of Bridge Investment's Tinian Oceanview Resort and Condominiums project. The company leased the top floor of the BoG building from a local family on the island.

STANLEY

From Page 1

"It is clear that we have different intentions with regard to how the power issue should be handled in the Commonwealth. It is also clear that you and other members of the House will continue to exert undue pressure and influence on this process until your objectives are met. Since this situation is not going to improve, I resign as chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, giving way for you and the other members to do as you like," said the

lawmaker in a letter to House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios dated March 26.

The last straw appeared to be yesterday's confirmation of Kimberly King-Hinds as a member of the Public Utilities Commission by the House on a vote of 14-5 with one abstention, despite Torres' opposition to her appointment.

The Saipan congressman said that appointees to PUC have not been properly evaluated in the past and though they have advanced college degrees, all current appointees have admitted—to their credit—that they do not have the qualifications to sit

on this commission.

He was especially critical of the nomination of King-Hinds, who was not present in yesterday's session.

"There has been considerable pressure on my committee to rubber stamp these nominees, most members insisting that an interview of one nominee, Kimberly King-Hinds was unnecessary. I disagree with that assessment. I am convinced that the information provided in her financial disclosure statement is not entirely accurate," said Torres.

He also pointed out that, although King-Hinds indicated that she has no

business affiliations with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Torres found out that she holds a position in a water company on Tinian. "While legal counsels and others have stated that there is no conflict of interest, I do not agree."

Torres also took issue with the creation of the PUC itself.

"This community has been struggling with inadequate power service for many, many years. And now because of mismanagement covering a 10-year period or more and high fuel prices, the general public is suffering from power outages and high power rates. Our response to this crisis is and continues to

be the creation of more commissions," he said.

"Somehow, Mr. Speaker, I know that it's important to you and other members that a special subcommittee on power be created, despite my opinion that I need to reassess, unless the purpose of a newly created subcommittee is to steer the privatization issue in a particular direction?" he asked.

Torres ran as an Independent candidate in the last election.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from House Speaker Palacios last night but calls made to his cell phone were not answered.

TELESOURCE

From Page 1

engines on Saipan, and for the ultimate relocation of the engines back to Tinian.

"The engines are Telesource's responsibility under our agreement with CUC and we will assume the responsibility pursuant to our contractual obligation, no matter where the engines are located," he said.

Zayed added that his company has, on many occasions, expressed its desire and readiness to assist CUC in finding a solution to the power crisis that currently plagues Saipan.

"We applaud the recent and innovative thinking coming from past and present delegation leaders of Tinian whereby the excess generation capacity on the island can be used to assist the people of Saipan," he said.

The company executive said that Telesource submitted such an idea to

the CNMI government as far back as July 17, 2006, but it had never received a reply to its offer.

In that letter addressed to Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, Telesource proposed to deliver to CUC Saipan within 45 days modular containerized high-speed machines for a term of 18 to 24 months on a rental basis. The machines are said to be 25-percent more fuel efficient than diesel turbines and will include all required transformers and control gear.

One other option being examined—aside from the relocation of diesel generators to Saipan—is the laying down of cables on the ocean bed between Tinian and Saipan, where electrical power can then be shared by both islands.

"If the CUC will seriously consider running a cable from Tinian to Saipan, then Telesource is ready to undertake and pay for a feasibility study to investigate this idea for energy sharing between the islands. In

fact, Telesource is ready to expand its generating capacity on Tinian if by doing so we can help alleviate the crisis on Saipan. These innovative solutions represent the change in attitude and thinking required in order to solve our power crises," said Zayed.

He said Telesource is a local company and that can attract the necessary investment to significantly mitigate the economic and social impact that the CNMI's power crisis is having on its people.

'Move to junk Miura warrant is premature'

By LINDA DEUTSCH
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors argued Tuesday (Wednesday on Saipan) that a bid to throw out the arrest warrant for a Japanese businessman in the 1980s murder of his wife is premature and can't

be pursued until he is extradited from Saipan.

Attorney Mark Geragos claimed that a new trial for Kazuyoshi Miura would be double jeopardy because he was already tried in Japan and said the warrant for his arrest was defective.

In a reply brief to his motion, Deputy District Attorney Hoon

Chun said the law precludes Geragos from challenging the arrest warrant by raising the double jeopardy issue, which is a "substantive defense" that should come up after Miura appears in Los Angeles and has a prelimi-



Miura

nary hearing.

Chun said the issue can't be argued without the defendant present.

"Put another way, defendant cannot simply phone in his defense to these felony charges," said the mo-

nition. "Thus, while defendant's double jeopardy arguments lack merit both factually and legally, the time and place for litigating this issue, like the defendant himself, has not yet arrived."

A hearing on the issue is set for April 2.

Miura, 60, was arrested last month in the U.S. territory of Saipan and Los Angeles authorities are seeking his extradition.

In 1981, he was shot in the leg and his wife was shot in the

head in Los Angeles. Kazumi Miura, 28, died the following year in Japan. Los Angeles police initially accepted Miura's story of being shot by robbers but later became convinced he conspired with someone to have his wife killed to collect life insurance.

Miura was convicted in Japan of murdering his wife, but that verdict was overturned by the country's high courts 10 years ago.

CREES explores alternative meds for livestock

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service was recently awarded a grant totaling \$97,074 to fund a project that advances alternative plant medicines to improve livestock health in the Pacific region.

Titled "Technology Transfer of Alternative Plant Medicines for Livestock HealthCare in the Western Pacific," the project is led by Dr. Allan Sabaldica, DVM, who works as an animal scientist and extension specialist for CREES.

"We are extremely proud of Dr. Sabaldica and his team at CREES," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "The project he's leading will go a long way in promoting not only alternative animal health practices for the CNMI, but also regional collaboration in agricultural sustainability."

The highly competitive grant is administered by the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, which is a program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that aims to support farm and ranch systems that are profitable, environmentally sound and good for communities.

Other jurisdictions that are part of the WSARE that also received grant funds included

Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Guam, Colorado and Nevada; however, the CNMI received the highest amount.

According to the Sabaldica, the advancement of alternative plant medicine was necessitated by the region's shortage of animal health experts, strict restrictions on traditional livestock drug usage, food safety concerns, language variations, cultural differences, geographical locations, and loss in indigenous knowledge of medicinal plants for most Western Pacific extension professionals and producers.

"Alternative plant medicine is considered highly recommended, economical, and environmentally friendly," Sabaldica said. "It is clear that it will complement sustainable organic farming and improve animal health, and inevitably, human health."

The project has three phases. The first objective involves medicinal plant training for paravets, extension staff, local and federal field officers, farmers and producers in the CNMI, Guam, Palau, FSM and the Marshall Islands. It will also involve a "Train the Trainers" program that will impart Asian technology transfer on plant medicinal applications and preparations for livestock healthcare to the

Western Pacific.

The second phase and objective will involve the production and distribution of sustainable educational materials in different native languages. These materials will include manuals, posters, CD database, and videos/DVD of the available medicinal plants.

The final phase entails conducting workshops in the CNMI, Guam, Palau, FSM, and the Marshall Islands to disseminate and share gained knowl-

edge with government agencies and the community within the Western Pacific.

"In addition to the increase in the quality of animal life and human life," Sabaldica added, "the project aims to increase the profitability in livestock operation, increase the number of in healthful products and available organic foods, and decrease antibiotic residue and other food safety concerns." (NMC)



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Saipan Tribune

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Saipan firm settles used oil violations with \$20K

HONOLULU—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reached a \$20,000 settlement with Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp., for used oil and hazardous waste management violations at its power plant facility in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

The company corrected the violations and also agreed to spend over \$68,000 to conduct a series of environmental projects that will focus on used oil management including storage and spill prevention at commercial facilities.

“Proper management of used oil is imperative on an island like Saipan,” said Nancy Lindsay, acting director of Waste Programs for the EPA Pacific Southwest Region. “Spilled used oil can contaminate soil and poison ocean ecosystems. I am pleased that the company will implement environmental projects that will benefit the

ON THE WEB

- EPA's used oil requirements: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/usedoil/index.htm>.
- DEQ's used oil program: <http://www.deq.gov.mp/article.aspx?secID=7&artID=67>

CNMI by training other facilities about proper used oil management, spill prevention and storage for proper disposal.”

Pacific Marine will:

- sponsor a used oil collection event for Saipan;
- purchase pollution prevention equipment for used oil management and spill prevention,
- conduct pollution prevention evaluations at four hotels in Saipan, and
- provide training to managers and workers on pollution prevention and used oil management.

EPA and CNMI Division of Environmental Quality inspectors discovered the violations

during a routine inspection. The company also failed to notify the EPA of hazardous waste activity and properly mark or label containers of used oil. Other violations included failing to respond to a release of used oil, improper documentation, and lacking a certified spill response plan.

The EPA's used oil and used battery rules require facilities to properly store wastes, and label and manage waste containers. Facilities must also take care to properly train employees to manage waste and to manage their used oil, as improperly stored used oil can potentially spill and pose a risk to workers and the environment. *(EPA)*

House sets public hearings on four initiatives

The House of Representatives will hold a series of public hearings next month to discuss four recently introduced legislative initiatives.

The House Committee on Natural Resources will conduct public hearings on April 2, April 3, April 9, and April 10 beginning 6:30pm on two venues—the House chamber inside the legislative building on Capital Hill and at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The legislative initiatives that would be dealt with are H.L.I. 16-3, H.L.I. 16-4, H.L.I. 16-5, and H.L.I. 16-8.

Authored by Rep. Heinz S.

Hofschneider, H.L.I. 16-3 seeks to amend sections 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Article 11 of CNMI Constitution to reflect the dissolution of the Marianas Public Lands Authority and the creation of the Department of Public Lands.

It also seeks to lift constitutional restrictions on the use of revenues generated from public land leases and user fees to allow the CNMI government to reserve a portion of those revenues to fund the operation and improvement of the CNMI's public utilities. Also, it would allow the government to use part of the interest from MPLT investments.

H.L.I. 16-4, also introduced by Hofschneider, seeks to change the leasehold terms for private lands allowed by the CNMI Constitution from 55 years to 75 years.

H.L.I. 16-5 is also another Hofschneider-authored measure that wants to amend Section 4 of Article 10 of the CNMI Constitution. This initiative proposes to authorize the CNMI government to borrow money for operating expenses during extreme situations and upon approval of the people through an initiative.

H.L.I. 16-8, meanwhile, penned by Rep. Victor B. Hocog, seeks to amend Article 12 of the Constitution by adding a new Section 7 to allow each senatorial district to amend or repeal the restrictions on alienation of land with respect to

each senatorial district.

The schedule of the public hearings on the House legislative initiatives are as follows:

- April 2 H.L.I. 16-3, H.L.I. 16-4, and 16-8 House Chambers
- April 3 H.L.I. 16-3, H.L.I. 16-4, and 16-8 Multi-Purpose Center
- April 9 H.L.I. 16-5 House Chambers
- April 10 H.L.I. 16-5 Multi-Purpose Center

Members of the public are encouraged attend these public hearings to learn more about these initiatives and submit written or oral testimony. Comments may also be submitted as follow: 1. Drop-off at Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb's office at the Legislative Building; 2. Mail to P.O. Box 500586, Saipan, MP 96950, attention Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb; 3, email rtebuteb@yahoo.com; or 4. fax 664-8985. Comments are due on April 10.

The House said that public hearings on the four initiatives would be conducted on Tinian and Rota on a date to be announced soon.

Copies of the initiatives may also be downloaded from Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho's website at www.camachocnmi.com or you may call the Legislative Bureau librarian at 322-8840 or Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb's office at 664-8983. *(Mark Rabago)*

Kagman public meeting today

The Kagman Kumunidat Association will have a public meeting at the Kagman Community Center today, March 27, at 6:30pm. Residents of Kagman are encouraged to attend. The agenda will include election of new officers, briefing with the residents, award presentations, and feedback from the residents.

For more information, call Jesse Torres, Kagman Komunidat Association public information officer, at 256-5826. *(PR)*

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,	Civil Action No. 04-0588C
Plaintiff,	NOTICE OF AUCTION
vs.	
ANTONIO S. CAMACHO, ELPHIDIA MSP. CAMACHO, and CNMI DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION,	
Defendants.	

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the rights, title, and interest of the Defendants Antonio S. Camacho and Elphidia MSP Camacho in the following described, real property situated in I-Denni, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 010 E 02, containing an area of 38,001 square meters, more or less, as shown in the Division of Lands and Surveys Official plat Number 010 E 01 dated August 15, 1984, including all existing and permanent improvements on the real property;

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m., on Friday, March 28, 2008**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

- 1. Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
- 3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
 - a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
 - b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 234-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- 7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Antonio S. Camacho and Elphidia MSP Camacho in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 28th day of February 2008.

/s/ REBECCA M. WARFIELD,
Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,	Civil Action No. 05-0296D
Plaintiff,	NOTICE OF AUCTION FOR REAL PROPERTY
vs.	
RICARDO C. RASA, TERESA R. RASA, HYUNG TAE YOON, KYUNG YANG A. YOON and JUN SOO PARK,	
Defendants.	

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the rights, title, and interest of the Defendants Ricardo C. Rasa and Teresa R. Rasa in the following described, real property situated in Talofofo, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Tract No. 22675-R2, located in Talofofo, Saipan, containing an area of 35,116 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on DLS Check No. 2098/93 and recorded as File No. 93-1674 on May 13, 1993.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m., on Friday, March 28, 2008**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

- 1. Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
- 3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
 - a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 234-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- 7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Ricardo C. Rasa and Teresa R. Rasa in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 28th day of February 2008.

/s/ REBECCA M. WARFIELD,
Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,	Civil Action No. 05-0296D
Plaintiff,	AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION FOR REAL PROPERTY (underlying Kagman Market)
vs.	
RICARDO C. RASA, TERESA R. RASA, HYUNG TAE YOON, KYUNG YANG A. YOON and JUN SOO PARK,	
Defendants.	

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Ricardo C. Rasa and Teresa R. Rasa in the following described, real property situated in Kagman, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 12 G 36, located in Kagman, Saipan, containing an area of 2,000 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on DLS Check No. 012 G 01.

Please note that the foreclosure sale of Lot No. 012 G 36 by CDA is subject to the following leases of record of Hyung Tae Yoon, Kyung Yang A. Yoon and Jun Soo Park, which leasehold interests shall not be disturbed or terminated as long as Hyung Tae Yoon, Kyung Yang A. Yoon and Jun Soo Park are and remain current in their lease payment and make such payments directly to CDA or any other subsequent buyer, when due or as otherwise directed in writing:

Lease Agreement (dated January 31, 2002), filed at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 02-217, and as assigned by

Assignment of Lease Agreement (dated January 10, 2003), filed at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 03-074;

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m., on Friday, March 28, 2008**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

- 1. Minimum Bid. The minimum bid for the property listed in this notice is hereby amended and shall be \$350,000.00.** The earlier Notice of Auction incorrectly stated that the minimum bid was \$300,000.00.
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
- 3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
 - a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 234-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- 7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Ricardo C. Rasa and Teresa R. Rasa in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 20th day of March 2008.

/s/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

GEORGE N. RIOS,	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 03-0123(B)
Petitioner,	
versus	
MARIANA S. RIOS,	ORDER
Respondent.	

Petitioner, George N. Rios has petitioned this Court for an Order to Appear and Plead on his Complaint for Divorce.

Petitioner shall publish the Summons once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in a local newspaper of general circulation the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Petitioner shall post the Summons at the House of Justice bulletin board on Saipan for a period of not less than thirty (30) days.

IT SO ORDERED this 14th day of April, 2004.

/s/ KENNETH L. GOVENDO
Associate Judge

US military donates flu vaccine to NMI, others

By **AUDREY MCAVOY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU, Hawaii (AP)—The U.S. military said Tuesday it has delivered 30,000 doses of surplus flu vaccine from Honolulu to the CNMI and Guam and small island nations in the Pacific, including American Samoa and Palau.

The doses were gathered from across the military and stored at Tripler Army Medical Center.

The military discovered the need while discussing how the U.S. could help Pacific nations and territories respond to an influenza pandemic and natural disasters, said Col. Mike Brumage, Tripler's chief of preventive medicine.

Flu shots protect those receiving the vaccine as well as those who live and work with them, he said.

Influenza is a year-round disease in the tropics, so the doses will be useful even though flu season is ending in the 50 states, Tripler said.

The Defense Department requires active-duty personnel to get vaccinated against the flu every year. It also provides vaccines to military dependents, but often ends the flu season with an excess supply.

The doses are worth \$260,000. They are being given to the island nations and territories at no cost.

Because of increased tourism in the Pacific Islands, the flu vaccine is vital to the population there. Tourists arrive from east and west.

"And then they can infect everybody else on the islands so giving them the influenza vaccine is very important and even at this time of year, because it's a year round threat in the Pacific Islands,

unlike in the temperate climates where it tends to be more seasonal," said Col. Michael Brumage, from Tripler Hospital.

Hawaiian Airlines is delivering American Samoa's supply. Continental Airlines is carrying the remainder to the Northern Mariana Islands, Micronesia, Guam and the Marshall Islands.

"Often times, these islands only have a small amount of doses to give out to the local population each year," said Ron Ballajadia, of the non-governmental organization Pacific Islands Health Officers Association.

About 2,500 doses were delivered to Palau earlier this month. The remainder went out yesterday.

The military last year sent 7,800 doses to the Northern Mariana Islands. It expanded the program this year based on the success of that operation.

Guam biz group ships its first container of baled aluminum

ANIGUA, Guam—Representatives of the Guam Business Partners for Recycling under project "i-recycle" placed the last bales of recycled aluminum cans in a container van at the Ambros offices in Anigua yesterday in preparation for shipment to the U.S. mainland.

The container will be transported by Matson Navigation Co. in the coming weeks to the Anheuser-Busch Recycling Corporation in Los Angeles, Calif.

Schools that helped gather the aluminum cans will receive the proceeds earned for their use.

The 20-foot container holds 23,280 lbs of baled aluminum, which translates to approximately 838,000 cans.

When the baled aluminum arrives at the West Coast, it will be bought by Anheuser-Busch Recycling Corp., the largest aluminum recycler in the world, at the current market price. At this time the price for aluminum on the West Coast is \$.81/lb. This first shipment will generate about \$18,850 (subject to minimal stevedoring and trucking fees) that will be disbursed to Guam schools.

The proceeds will be received by the Guam Business Partners for Recycling, Inc., a non-profit organization, and the disbursements to the schools will be based on the volume each school generated.

Forty eight-cubic-yard bins

Navy breaks ground for housing project

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Navy will hold a groundbreaking ceremony tomorrow, March 28, 8am.

The ceremony marks the construction of 55 three-bedroom and four-bedroom units in the Old Apra housing area. The new

have been placed islandwide since the first bin was placed at St. John's School on Sept. 5, 2007. The participating schools include 11 private schools, GCC and UOG, and 27 public schools, including all the high schools, middle schools and 16 elementary schools. Two additional 3 cubic yard bins, provided by NAVFAC, have been placed at the Navy DODEA schools in order to allow them to participate in the program as well. Additionally, three public elementary schools are now participating in the program without an 8-cubic-yard bin.

Peggy Denney, program administrator of the i-recycle program is excited to see the first container ready for shipment. "When we launched this program back in September 2007, [it was] with the understanding that programs like this take awhile to build momentum, but it is so encouraging to see how active the schools and community have been in filling bin after bin—making this finally a reality."

"The partners are confident that as more businesses, agencies and organizations get involved to support our efforts, we can fill another container in April—meaning the schools could potentially receive another check before the end of the school year!" she added.

When asked how the partners

family housing will serve as replacements to the current homes that were built in the 1950s.

Black Construction Corp. was awarded the \$42.1 million project, which is scheduled to be completed in May 2009. The contract was awarded in August 2007.

feel about the recent Bill 244 introduced by Sen. Muna-Barnes, J. Lee Babb, president of the GBPR stated, "The success of the i-recycle program makes mandatory deposits on beverage containers unnecessary and if enacted, Bill 244 would undermine this worthwhile private-public program."

The Guam Business Partners for Recycling comprises eight businesses: Ambros Inc., Anheuser Busch Recycling Corp., Coca-Cola/ Foremost/ Subway/Glimpses, South Pacific Petroleum Corp., Matson Navigation Co., Perez Brothers Inc., Guahan Waste Control, and Ernst & Young.

Peggy Denney dba Denney Environmental Consulting Services, is the program administrator of the "i-recycle" project.

The objective of the "i-recycle" program is to educate and promote the recycling of aluminum beverage containers on an islandwide level. The GBPR's plan is to use private and public schools as sites for the aluminum can bins, giving access for the entire community to recycle all over the island. The ultimate plan is to have local businesses, agencies and organizations get involved by adopting a school.

The GBPR is soliciting sponsors for their Adopt-A-School program. Contact Peggy Denney at 483-9415 on how to get involved. (GBPR)

The homes will boast energy efficient air-conditioning units, covered patios, private fencing and additional storage spaces, among other features. The housing area will include playgrounds, jogging and bike trails, and a picnic area. (USN)



Saipan Tribune, the CNMI's first daily newspaper, is looking for fresh talent to join our team.

REPORTER

- At least two years' experience writing for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must know how to write hard news, features, and business stories;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, analytical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Computer literate and with driver's license.

SPORTS REPORTER

- At least two years' experience covering sports for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be willing to put in flexible work hours;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Computer literate and with driver's license;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be passionate about sports.

ART DIRECTOR

- At least five years' experience in the publishing industry or related field;
- Must have at least two years' supervisory experience in the field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have extensive knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- At least three years' experience in the publishing business or related field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have basic knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

- At least high school graduate;
- Typing speed of at least 40 words per minute
- Must have extensive experience using Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint);
- Must be familiar with Mac computers (knowledge in PC is a plus);
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, and a team player.

If you think you have what it takes to be part of this dynamic team, submit your most recent résumé and portfolio to the *Saipan Tribune*, located on the second floor of the CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan. Or e-mail it to editor@saipantribune.com. On-island hires preferred.

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Illegal aliens from Guam vessel hunted

URUNAO POINT, Guam—U.S. Coast Guard pollution investigators are keeping a close eye on a 50-foot Taiwanese-flagged fishing vessel that ran aground on a reef between Urunao Point and Double Reef, Guam.

The grounded vessel was reported to the Coast Guard at 7:30am March 25.

There was a slight oil sheen reported at that time but it has since dissipated. Coast Guard pollution investigators will determine how much remaining

fuel is aboard the vessel. A comprehensive search of nearby waters failed to turn up any persons in the water, but life vests were reported on the beach.

Eight of the suspected 14 crew members were taken into custody as possible undocumented aliens, according to the Guam Police Department. A manhunt for the remaining six crew members is underway in the nearby jungle.

The Coast Guard determined the missing six crew members were not still in the water.

“Our number one priority is safety of life at sea,” said Capt. Bill Marhoffer, the Coast Guard’s senior officer in Guam and the Captain of the Port, Guam. “Once it’s been determined it is no longer a search and rescue case, we work with our partner agencies to determine if there is an environmental hazard.”

Lt. Marcus Hirshberg, the supervisor of Coast Guard Guam’s 24-hour command center, said agents with several U.S. federal agencies, including the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Agency and

Immigration and Customs Enforcement are investigating the grounded vessel as an undocumented alien migration case.

The Coast Guard partnered with the U.S. Navy’s Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 to determine there were no persons in the water from the grounded vessel. The Coast Guard continues to work with the Guam Police and Fire Departments, Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency, FBI, DEA, ICE and U.S. Navy on the search for the other crew members. *(USCG)*



A Taiwanese-flagged fishing vessel, approximately 50 feet in length, was reported aground March 25 in Guam.

U.S. COAST GUARD

NMC Charter Day panel seeks booth applicants

The Northern Marianas College Charter Day Committee is still accepting booth applications from agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations for the upcoming Charter Day celebration.

Organizations may purchase booth space for food/drink,

specialty drinks (e.g. coffee coolers or pearl shakes), games booths, and retail (arts and crafts, toys, etc).

The Charter Day celebration will be held on April 11 at the As Terlaje Campus from 3pm to 10pm. The event is one of NMC’s largest and most-at-

tended events.

This year, the celebration will showcase a broad range of entertainment, including a variety of live band performances, the highly anticipated “Marianas Idol Contest” and cultural dance presentations.

Reserve booth space by

paying the \$100 one-time fee (which covers the tents booth and access to 110V electricity outlets). The deadline to submit a booth application is March 31, 2008. Contact Queanna Sablan at 234-5498 ext. 1253 or email queannas@nmcnet.edu if you have any questions. *(NMC)*

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MARCH 27, 2000

Bill revives financial aid to students

A new financial assistance scheme for local students pursuing higher education is under review in the House of Representatives again barely two years after the government cut funding for the existing program. Rep. Brigida Ichihara, chair of the Education Committee, has introduced a comprehensive measure that will set out the policy on various government-funded educational grants, including loans and aid.

Borja gears up for 2001 polls; slams Republicans

In what appeared to be the start of his political campaign, former Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja slammed the Republican Party for its failure to revive the economy, improve the quality of education and ease strains in CNMI-Federal relations. During Saturday’s fundraising event of the Democratic Party, Mr. Borja asked the people to begin asking what the present administration has achieved in all these three areas.

Over 2,500 businesses did not renew permit in 1999

More than 2,500 establishments in the Northern Marianas did not renew their business licenses last year, apparently indicating another round of fierce upheavals in the Commonwealth’s heavily-knocked economy. A report obtained from the Business License Section of the finance department noted that out of 3,410 businesses in 1998, only 812 renewed their licenses by end-December 1999, down by over 76 percent.

MARCH 27, 2001

59 foreign investors visit CNMI

With efforts geared toward the alleviation of the Commonwealth’s economic conditions, the CNMI played host to 59 foreign investors who traveled to the islands over the weekend for a two-day trade mission. The investors were invited over by Michael Kwan, chairman of the Hong Kong Entertainment Ltd., which operates the multi-million dollar facility Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Foreign investments dwindle in 2000

Foreign investment to the CNMI continued its downward spiral as the Department of Commerce reported only three approved applications by foreign companies wishing to do business in the Commonwealth last year. On paper, the three companies represent only a total of \$750,000 in foreign capital infusion to the Commonwealth. The foreign investment figure is far worse than the six registered in 1999 and the four approved foreign investments in 1998.

NMIRF losing \$1M each year

The NMI Retirement Fund is losing an estimated \$1 million annually due to high operational costs and delayed payment of medical services, to the detriment of its medical referral program. The money, which should have been used to replenish coffers for the medical referral program, is instead used to finance operation run the Retirement Fund.

MARCH 27, 2002

Country of Peace baffles legislators

Questions over the intent of the Global Country of Peace to establish a “sovereign” state within Rota has left the Legislature with conflicting opinions about the organization, including unanswered questions whether it is a religion, a cult, or a legitimate scientific group. Most lawmakers interviewed after the presentation of the organization at the House of Representatives chamber expressed concern not so much with the doctrines and practices of the group or their plans to establish projects on Rota but on the political issue of sovereignty and the group’s request to be granted such.

Political questions needing answers

Though the doctrines of the Global Country of World Peace is in direct conflict with Christianity, Chalan Kanoa Bishop Tomas Camacho said he is more concerned with the economic and political implications of the group’s bid to set up headquarters on Rota. In a statement faxed to media offices, Bishop Camacho said he was prompted to issue the statement after receiving several requests for one, and after considering the implications of the group’s bid to put down roots in the CNMI.

PUBLIC NOTICE



This is to inform the general public that **Darlene Aldan** is no longer employed by Choice Radio Inc. dba IConnect and no longer has any affiliation to this company. Any transaction made by her on behalf of this company will not be honored.

The Management
Choice Radio Inc. dba IConnect

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have rescheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting for **Friday, March 28, 2008 beginning at 6:00 PM at the Plumeria Room, Saipan World Resort; Saipan, MP.**

The following agenda is hereby established:

- I PRELIMINARIES**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes
- II CONSULTANT REPORTS**
 - Legal Counsel Reports*
 - Loan Administrator Reports
 - Investment Consultant Reports
 - Flash Reports –January/February 2007
 - Market Volatility Presentation
 - Board Consultant Reports
 - Financial Statements – February 2007
- III CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**
 - Office Space Matters
- IV OLD BUSINESS**
- V NEW BUSINESS**
- VI EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.
- VII MISCELLANEOUS**
- VIII ADJOURNMENT**

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Visas needed

April's just around the corner, and that means it's H-1B preparation time once again. H-1Bs, which are visas for skilled foreign workers, are capped at 65,000, with another 20,000 given to foreign alumni of U.S. postgraduate programs. Last year, the cap was reached within hours on the first day that the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services began accepting applications. Because a bachelor's degree is required for these applications, most foreign graduates from the class of 2007 were among the tens of thousands who were shut out of the process. If nothing changes, America will miss out on another crop of talent this year.

H-1B visas are reserved for the world's best and brightest, and barring their entry is economic self-sabotage. The cap keeps out doctors, engineers and other specialists—people who save lives and often create jobs for others in America. One need only look at the national origins of founders of companies such as Google and Sun Microsystems to realize that foreign talent has helped keep the U.S. economy on the cutting edge. These are talents the United States has been struggling to grow at home, given that more than a third of all science and engineering doctorates awarded in the United States go to foreign students (for whom the number of visas is not capped), according to the National Science Foundation.

The H-1B visa cap was set well before the tech boom and so does not reflect current needs. It was raised temporarily in 1999, but that increase was allowed to lapse a few years later. Since last year's debacle, there have been congressional attempts to increase the cap, but these have been held up by the political sensitivities surrounding immigration reform, and in particular reforms aimed at illegal and unskilled workers. Because lawmakers lack the political will to keep the world's talent in America, companies are following it overseas, setting up shop in Canada, India, Eastern Europe and other areas where the skills they need are plentiful. As a result, investment and jobs are being shipped abroad. As Bill Gates testified this month, the jobs created by the A-earning foreign students who did not remain in the United States will now go to the "B and C students" surrounding them at home in India rather than to their American counterparts.

One solution that may be less politically inflammatory would be to recapture H-1B visas that Congress has already approved but that went unused during the post-Sept. 11 economic downturn. About 300,000 surplus visas could be doled out over the next several years to provide a short-term fix to the current shortage and could perhaps include an additional fee—which employers would pay—to create more revenue. A long-term solution is still necessary. Allowing the cap to stay so low effectively exiles not only the world's best and brightest but also the U.S. companies that employ them.

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More Life

"What one skill, if you developed and did it in an excellent fashion, would help you the most in your career?"—Brian Tracy, Speaker & Management Consultant

Idreamt I visited a beautiful, tropical island in the Pacific. As I met with the individuals who lived there, I realized everyone was happy and felt fulfilled. In fact, if you were to ask anyone why life was so good, they would tell you in a nutshell that they experience more life.

Entrepreneurs were happy because they got more out of life from their businesses. Not only were sales good, but also everything else was going well. They were achieving their goals and made important decisions based on a set of shared values. Because things operated so smoothly, the owners and managers could spend less time at work and more quality time with their family, and other areas of interest.

Employees felt like they had more life because their employers provided a fun and challenging environment where they experienced professional growth from quality training programs. The bosses also recognized their staff for the contributions they made, which made them feel valued, and in turn, employees felt compelled to give their best for the job they were paid to do.

The positive environment created for the employees was transferred to the customers who enjoyed their shopping experience at businesses that catered to their needs. Customers were served in a friendly manner and they knew that they received the best value for their money. The customers showed their appreciation through greater loyalty, and by making recommendations to their friends.

Those serving in the government also felt like they were getting more out of life because they felt their jobs made a difference to the individuals they served. The various agencies coordinated their efforts and streamlined their operations to minimize waste and inefficiencies. Everything was done to minimize the hassle to the customer and ensure they got their questions answered quickly.

The overall members of the community felt they had more life because only a few short years ago they were experiencing an economic downturn that threatened their happy existence. However, the government, business, and community leaders were able to do one thing to focus their energies in a positive direction and eventually turned the economy around.

Not only did this one thing help the economy; it also positioned

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.



the island as a gem in the Pacific that travelers, investors, and tourists felt compelled to visit. Many articles reported the great qualities of the small island, and the friendly people that lived there. The island was hailed as a model of excellence, and other places used it as an example of economic stability and growth.

This amazing turnaround occurred because this one thing became a nucleus for many other initiatives that eventually brought prosperity and a better way of life for the people of the island. It was difficult to believe that just a few years earlier, the island had been struggling with many issues. The pressures were great and morale was very low. However, when the solution was found and leaders acted, it changed the whole perspective. It became a continuous loop of good things that continued to make everything even better. This one thing was like a match lit in the darkness of despair to brighten the hopes of everyone. The one thing was...

Just then I woke up. But, perhaps you can help answer that question by asking yourself this question: "What one general skill, if developed in an excellent fashion, would make the biggest difference in your job, your business, the government, or in the overall community?"

This one skill, if practiced by everyone, would make a profound impact on the quality of life for yourself and everyone your organization touches. It only takes a few dedicated people to make a difference, and create a better way of life for everyone. According to a recent survey we conducted, the most essential work skill one should develop is customer service.

Customers service is more than something you do, it is something you are. Being customer-focused means that everything you do, say, and feel is measured against the benefit it offers your customers. It means that more customers and tourists will come and want to buy more and return more often, and by giving more you will receive more life.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The argument for universal health care

By JOE LIVINGSTON, MD, MPH
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I read with interest Mr. Bateman's *Sour Grapes* of March 26, 2008, where he attacked the idea of universal health care. He stated that the real losers in a socialized medicine system would be the consumers, and that doctors would leave a socialized system for greener pastures. He is wrong.

I'm a doctor, and I left the CNMI for greener pastures. I left to become a neonatologist, to take care of sick newborns and premature babies. The thing that I like the very most about my new profession is that we don't do a wallet biopsy on a preemie or sick baby that comes into the nursery. I don't have to open an office in an affluent part of town and waste much of my time taking care of the worried well. I don't have to watch anymore as the number of patients who come to see me drops because the rates for self-pay patients at CHC have gone up, and the poor simply cannot afford to pay. I can just practice medicine.

But what about the economic and business arguments? While it is possible to consider medicine like a product, much like the Spam you can buy at Joeten, it doesn't make sense to treat it like other commercial items available in a free market. For one thing, the health care market hasn't been a free market for years. Most people who get insurance get it through their employer, with limited or no choice. The insurance companies are businesses, not charities, so if you happen to have a chronic illness like diabetes before you get insurance, it is a pre-existing condition and it isn't covered.

The argument for the free market is that the economic forces of supply and demand will create goods at the lowest natural price for consumers. If there are several people trying to sell you Spam, the laws of economics state that the prices will drop naturally to the lowest point for which it is still possible for sellers of Spam to make a bit of a profit. The way health insurance companies make money is by telling you that you don't need Spam, that you can't get Spam,

or that you have to pay for Spam on your own because of your pre-existing condition. So much money in health care is spent to employ people in cubicles to look for reasons to deny insurance claims. It has gotten so bad that most private physician offices in the United States employ small armies of people to fight back against the insurance companies and continually resubmit claims that were initially denied. Instead of the law of supply and demand making things more efficient, the laws that govern competition among insurance companies make things worse. Whenever you spend \$1.00 on health care, you spend 33 cents on administration. (See http://www.pnhp.org/news/2003/august/administrative_costs.php for more details.) That's to pay people to tell you you can't see a certain doctor, or you can't have a certain test, or that such-and-such isn't covered for you because you are on plan #19 instead of plan #18 of the same insurance company. It is crazy!

We already have socialized medicine, and it works really well—if you are over 65. It's called Medicare, and, oddly enough, it is popular and efficient. Although the population of people over 65 is smaller than the rest of us, it is a sicker population, and so Medicare does a huge amount of business in the United States. Socialized medicine is simply the idea of taking Medicare and getting rid of the age requirement. Instead of paying huge insurance costs out of pocket, we would instead pay an equivalent amount of taxes. There would be far less waste because there would be far less costly fighting between private providers and insurance companies. It just makes sense to move this market out of the private sector where it doesn't work, and back into the public sector where it can. Roughly half of the health care dollars are already spent in the public sector.

Now, I have to admit the public sector on Saipan does not normally inspire confidence, but the United States program called Medicare is much better run than, say, CUC. If the United States had some form of Universal Health Care, it might be a huge boon for the CNMI. Saipan could argue that, as part of the United States, folks on Saipan should get universal coverage too. Who knows, federal

funding for universal health care through a universal Medicare type program in the CNMI might mean that CHC would get a larger, more stable medical staff and better resources to take care of the health problems of folks in the CNMI.

One of the biggest problems for me as a pediatrician is that I know that there is a relationship between how much money a family makes and how healthy they and their children are. Rich families who live in nice houses and eat good food and get plenty of entertainment and leisure have fewer health problems and live longer and have better lives. As a doctor, I like helping people who are sick, and that means helping people who are poor. Poor people, with worse housing, worse food, and more stress, are sicker and don't live as long. Poor people need health care more often than rich people, but they don't access it as often even when they need it. When they do access it, they can't pay for it, so we all end up paying for it out of our own pockets through taxes anyway because we don't like to watch poor people die on the streets. Nonetheless, it is a sad thing whenever I hear somebody talk about how great our health care system is in the United States, because it is great if you happen to be Bill Gates but not for the working poor and many in the middle class.

Universal health care makes economic sense, it would help the CNMI, it would make the delivery of health care more efficient, and it would put the bulk of health care resources back where they belong: in actually delivering health care. Would it be perfect? No. But it's far better than telling poor families with sick kids to beat it because they don't have any cash, and then having us all pay for it when the kid ends up in shock in the emergency room and possibly dead or permanently disabled. Other countries with higher life expectancies (like Canada) pay far less on their health care system and cover everybody. Why can't we?

Joe Livingston, MD, MPH is a former pediatrician at the Commonwealth Health Center. He is currently based in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Letters to the Editor

'Focus legislative energy on worthier subjects'

This is in reference to Senator Pete Reyes' concern over the venue of the State of the Commonwealth address. It is obvious that common sense is not working at its best here because the Multi-Purpose Center was designed and is intended for the hosting of such events. The event is not about where the hosting should take place, and whether or not the senators or any member of the legislative body are to attend the governor's address. It is each member's fiduciary responsibility as a "public servant" to make themselves available to receive the delivery of the governor's message.

Most importantly, it is about access to the event by the public—the very people who voted for each and every member of the Legislature, including the governor—so that members of the community are informed of the state of their government. The people who have worked and visited the legislative building are well aware that the facility is not equipped to accommodate the number of people (in the past)

who have attended important events at the Legislature. I believe that the Senator would agree with me that it is logical to use a large facility and a broadcast event versus a small facility (such the legislative chambers) and a broadcast event because more people would have access to the information from the governor.

Furthermore, I agree with Senator Reyes that the CNMI government cannot afford to be luxurious. Therefore, the Legislature should set a precedent by introducing legislation to cease or reduce (if not already) the \$5,000 monthly stipend for its members and refrain from leasing luxury gas-guzzling vehicles, including non-essential off-island travel (i.e., conferences).

It's healthy to have different perspectives and political philosophies as long as the public's interest is not being compromised. Until such time that a new legislative building is built with an auditorium capable of hosting such event, the governor should continue to deliver the State

of the Commonwealth Address at the Multi-Purpose Center because this is in the best interest of the public. Instead of re-introducing resolutions and debating on where the governor should deliver the address, I urge Senator Reyes to focus his energy to support Senator Luis Crisostimo's effort in protecting our environment, specifically, the U.S. military's activities in the bombing of the Northern Islands and the kinds of toxic poison that's being released into our pristine environment, which may pose a long-term detrimental impact on our natural resources, thus affecting our traditional source of food, which we have depended on for hundreds of years.

Recently, a Northern Marianas College instructor and students were funded and tasked to work on a preliminary study on the effects on human injuries and environmental damage caused by World War II exploded and unexploded ordnances. This is another issue where Senator Reyes can make a significant and equally important

contribution as the Senate President to assist the project in any capacity that he can extend. Further, I am equally concerned with Senator Reyes' position on the military economy in the CNMI. He asserted the importance of the economic gain for the CNMI from the military presence but at the same time compromise the health and safety of the environment. Personally, I believe that as an NMI descent, it is paramount to protect the interest of our environment for our children *para i futuran i famagu'on ta*, above any economic gain from the military. Senator Reyes' policy of supporting the military economy, specifically the

bombing of Farallon de Medinilla, is a shortsighted vision by a well-respected public servant. In retrospect, the CNMI is receiving too little in terms of financial gain, as negotiated in the Covenant agreement, in comparison to the huge impact on the environment, noise pollution and health—physical, emotional, and psychological—of these military activities. If one really thinks about these military maneuvers, it is Guam and other military installations that are benefiting the most from these activities.

Liana Hofshchneider
Honolulu, Hawaii

Voting rights

Regarding the Governor's legal counsels' concern about the legality of the NMI-decent-only vote on the land deal, they are correct.

Years ago, I believe in the late 1980s or early 1990s, in the case of Freddy Rice vs State of Hawaii (it might have been Hawaiian Home Lands included), Freddy went all of the way to the highest court because he was denied participation when voting was restricted to people with Hawaiian blood.

This is something for the lawyers to look up. This was a landmark case and forever changed the way that Hawaiian Home Lands do business up to this time.

I would find the details for you but I am tied up on another pressing project.

John Mixson
Bicol, Phils./Tinian, MP

Thank you

I would like to commend all the people who had a part in repairing Ironwood Street in Kagman 3. Thank you to Rep. Edward Salas and his staff, DPW, the Saipan Mayor's Office, and everyone else involved in helping keep our drive home a little less destructive on our vehicles.

Joseph "JoJo" Camacho
Kagman 3, Saipan

State of exigency

Exigency isn't a word seen very often. At first glance it looks a bit like emergency and then a bit like exit. An exit emergency or an emergency exit? Well, OK, the dictionary says, "an urgent situation." The good news is that the Board of Regents has "come to life" and is accepting responsibility for this urgent situation and taking action. That is good news!

The concern, however, is to what extent and in what manner can NMC "reprogram, modify, and temporarily suspend certain policies and rules

necessary to maintain its accreditation."? Transparency and accountability must remain the trademarks in all the actions that are taken under this state of exigency. Caution must be taken to stay within policies and procedures, especially in matters of personnel, as this has a recent history of errors, oversights, and perhaps unfair and unlawful acts of seemingly random events. Maybe not so random?

Apparently the regents will now be meeting once a month concern-






ing NMC's accreditation. Some say it used to be once-a-quarter, so there's an improvement. As there aren't really that many months until the accreditation decision is to be made, might it be appropriate to meet a bit more often? At any rate the new committee is no doubt "on it." And I sure hope that president emeritus Mc Phetres will be asked for her input in this committee. Good luck!

Perry Conner
As Matuis, Saipan

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼74°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86 ▼78
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼76
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼74
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲89 ▼76
Majuro	Cloudy	▲84 ▼75

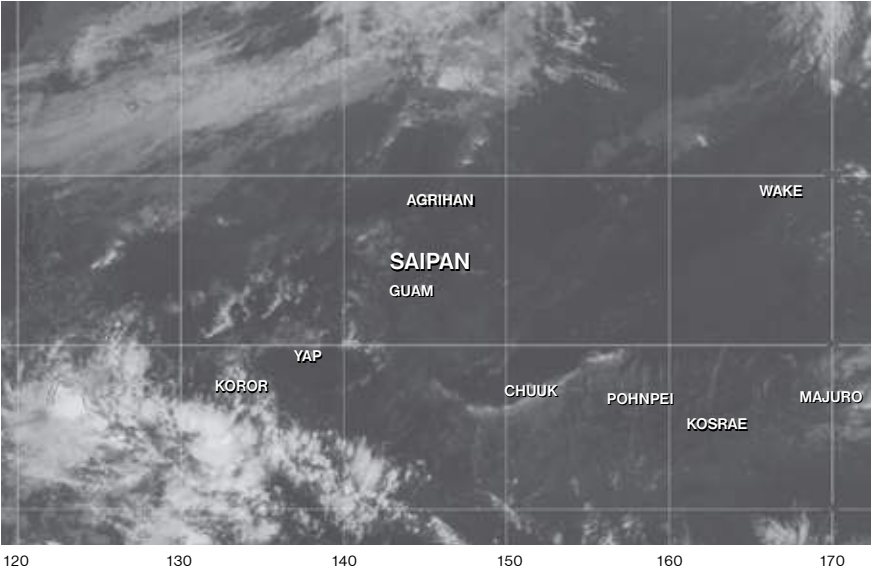
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲72 ▼58
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲63 ▼41
Hong Kong	Showers	▲75 ▼66
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83 ▼71
London	Showers	▲48 ▼39
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲68 ▼52
Manila	Showers	▲89 ▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲63 ▼47
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲80 ▼68
New York	Rain	▲49 ▼35
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲50 ▼38
Paris	Cloudy	▲48 ▼39
Pusan	T'Showers	▲52 ▼38
Rome	Showers	▲52 ▼41
Salem	Showers	▲48 ▼37
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲62 ▼41
Seoul	Cloudy	▲52 ▼34
Tokyo	Showers	▲54 ▼45
Washington, DC	Rain	▲64 ▼44

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:54AM Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
9:56AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
5:25PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MAR. 26, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward through a weak circulation centered at 3N132E to end at EQ136E. Winds converging near the trough and circulation are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Palau to the south of line from 7N130E to 4N142E to EQ145E. A nearly stationary front crosses the northwest corner of the discussion area from 18N130E to near Iwo to at 25N142E. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along this boundary and northward to beyond 25N. A surface trough reaches southward from 25N146E to 21N146E. Scattered showers are occurring northeast of the CNMI, or north of a line from 22N143E to 23N151E. Trade-wind convergence is generating clouds and scattered showers across the Marshall Islands between 3N and 11N from 169E to 180. An old shear line angles northeastward from 20N156E through a weak circulation centered at 22N160E to 23N163E, then continues as a cold front to beyond 25N at 168E. Scattered showers exist along and up to 150 miles northwest of this boundary. This area is northwest of Wake Island.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:16AM	6:29PM
Friday	6:15AM	6:29PM
Saturday	6:15AM	6:29PM
Sunday	6:14AM	6:29PM
Monday	6:13AM	6:29PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:04PM	10:22AM*
Friday	11:56PM	11:13AM*
Saturday	11:56PM**	11:13AM
Sunday	12:47AM	12:06PM
Monday	1:36AM	1:01PM

*Following Day **Preceding Day

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 27, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:35am 3:05pm Daily NW 077 6:15pm 1:10am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:50pm 9:35pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Government benefit programs in trouble

WASHINGTON (AP)—Trustees for the government's two biggest benefit programs warned that Social Security and Medicare are facing "enormous challenges" with the threat to Medicare's solvency far more severe.

The trustees, issuing their once-a-year analysis, said the resources in the Social Security trust fund will be depleted by 2041. The reserves in the Medicare trust fund that pays hospital benefits were projected to be wiped out by 2019.

Both those dates were the same as in last year's report. But the trustees warned that financial pressures will begin much sooner when the programs begin paying out more in benefits each year than they collect in payroll taxes. For Medicare, that threshold is projected to be reached this year and for Social Security it is projected to occur in 2017.

Both programs are expected to come under increasing pressure as 78 million baby boomers start retiring and drawing benefits.

"The financial difficulties facing Social Security and Medicare pose enormous challenges," the trustees said in their report. "The sooner these challenges are addressed, the more varied and less disruptive their solutions can be."

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, one of the trustees, warned of a fiscal train wreck



Members of the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees, Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Levitt, left, Secretary of Treasury and Managing Trustee Henry M. Paulson Jr., speaking, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao and Commissioner of Social Security Michael Astrue, right, attend a news conference at the Treasury Department building, Tuesday, March 25, 2008, in Washington.

unless something is done.

"Without change, rising costs will drive government spending to unprecedented levels, consume nearly all projected federal revenues and threaten America's future prosperity," Paulson told a news conference where he and the other trustees released the report.

President Bush, who wanted to make overhauling Social Security a top priority in his second term, tapped Paulson to lead that effort. However, Paulson has been unable to forge a consensus with Democrats, who took control of Congress

in 2006. He has complained that he is getting tired of playing "solitaire."

Democrats contend that Bush lost valuable time after his 2004 re-election pushing a plan to allow younger workers to direct their payroll tax contributions into private accounts, an idea that went nowhere in Congress.

Reaction in Congress divided along party lines with Republicans saying the new report was an urgent call for action while Democrats accused Republicans of using the report as an excuse for making Draconian

cuts in benefits.

For the second year, the report contained a Medicare funding warning that will require the next president to submit soon after he sends his first budget to Congress next year recommendations for dealing with a shortfall in Medicare taxes and projected benefits.

Bush submitted the first of these required responses in February. He recommended among other things that wealthier Medicare beneficiaries pay higher monthly premiums for prescription drug coverage. Under the 2003 law that provided

for drug benefits under Medicare, the president is required to submit cost-saving proposals to Congress if the trustees project Medicare will need to rely on general revenue for more than 45 percent of its funding in any future year.

Administration officials said Tuesday that Bush's recommendations, along with proposals to slow Medicare's growth included in the budget, would make a significant dent in the program's shortfalls. However, Democrats have attacked the proposals, making the prospect for legislation this year unlikely.

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charlie Rangel said Congress "will do what we have to in order to restore long-term financial stability to these programs."

But many analysts think the whole debate will be left for the next president to take up with Congress, given the difficulty of making changes in such politically sensitive programs as Social Security and Medicare during an election year.

While the Social Security trust fund will have resources until 2041, the more critical date in terms of government revenues will occur in 2017. In that year, Social Security, which has been providing billions of dollars in surpluses to the government for over two decades, will start having to pay out more in benefits than it will receive that year in payroll taxes.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
5,424.800
Up 69.100
(+1.29%)

HONG KONG
22,620.94
Up 156.42
(+0.70%)

JAKARTA
2,454.6731
Up 35.057
(+1.45%)

TOKYO
12,629.68
Down 115.54
(-0.91%)

K. LUMPUR
1,229.95
Up 28.93
(+2.41%)

MANILA
2,918.37
Down 26.17
(-0.90%)

SINGAPORE
2,995.03
Down 5.16
(-0.17%)

SEOUL
1,675.8
Up 0.87
(+0.05%)

BANGKOK
587.78
Down 3.25
(-0.55%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
12,532.60
-0.13%

NASDAQ
2,341.05
+0.61%

S&P
1,352.99
+0.23%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.091
British Pound	0.4991
Canadian Dollar	1.017
Chinese Renmbi	7.0284
Euro	0.6401
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7833
Indian Rupee	40.17
Indonesian Rupiah	9,193.5
Japanese Yen	99.955
Malaysian Ringgit	3.1835
New Zealand Dollar	1.2458
Philippine Peso	41.61
Singapore Dollar	1.3796
South Korean Won	984.6
Swiss Franc	1.0076
Taiwan Dollar	29.983
Thailand Baht	31.39

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Fed auctions another \$50 billion

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fighting to ease a dangerous credit crisis, the Federal Reserve has provided a total of \$260 billion in short-term loans to squeezed banks since December to help them overcome credit problems.

The central bank on Tuesday announced the results of its most recent auction—the eighth since the program started in December—where commercial banks bid to get a slice of \$50 billion in short-term loans.

It's part of an ongoing effort

by the central bank to provide relief to a spreading credit crunch that has unnerved financial markets. The situation threatens to push the country into a deep recession. Counting the latest auction results announced Tuesday, the Fed has provided a total of \$260 billion in short-term loans to banks since December.

In the most recent auction—which marked the eighth—commercial banks paid an interest rate of 2.615 percent, the lowest rate for any of the auctions of this kind conducted so far.

Oil ekes out a slight gain on dollar

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil futures rose modestly Tuesday as investors focused on the dollar's latest decline rather than new worries about the economy. Gas and diesel prices, meanwhile, retreated further from their recent record levels.

The dollar's decline against the euro, which ended a greenback rally that began last week, attracted investors back to oil. The U.S. currency's protracted slide was a big contributor to oil's march to nearly \$112 in recent weeks; many investors regard oil and other commodities

as inflation hedges, and turn to such hard assets when the dollar is falling.

But oil's slight gain was far from definitive, and followed a session in which prices alternated frequently between gains and losses. Investors were rattled by the Conference Board's report that consumer confidence fell much more than expected this month. The drop in confidence intensified the oil market's concerns that consumers hesitant to spend would further weaken the economy and depress demand for fuel.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stocks pause after big two-day rally

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street paused after a huge two-session rally Tuesday but closed mostly higher, holding on to almost all its gains even after disappointing reports on consumer sentiment and the housing market. Stocks pulled past profit-taking that was due in part to the Conference Board's report that consumer confidence sank to a five-year low in March. The index has been weakening since July. The Dow fell 16.04, or 0.13 percent, to 12,532.60. The blue chip index was actually the laggard in Tuesday's session—the broader Standard & Poor's 500 and Nasdaq composite indexes had more robust gains. The S&P rose 3.11, or 0.23 percent, to 1,352.99; the Nasdaq added 14.30, or 0.61 percent, to 2,341.05.

Home price drop signals tough spring

NEW YORK (AP)—Home prices plunged by record levels in January from a year ago, with almost no major cities immune from the spiraling market. Analysts worried that even the usually reliable spring selling season would fall flat. The closely watched Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller index of home prices in 20 cities fell nearly 11 percent in January from a year earlier, the biggest drop in its two-decade history. Prices were down about 20 percent in Las Vegas and Miami, both paying the price for especially rampant speculation and too much new construction during the housing boom. Fourteen other cities posted record declines in the Tuesday report.

March auto sales likely to drop again

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. (AP)—Automakers face what could be one of the toughest months in one of the toughest sales years in more than a decade. Industry analysts are predicting that U.S. auto sales in March will be worse than the same month last year. Just how bad depends on the analyst. "We're seeing the same negative forces that had an impact on consumer demand in the first couple of months of '08," said Jesse Toprak, chief industry analyst for the auto information site Edmunds.com. He predicts that when automakers report their U.S. sales results for March on April 1, the U.S. market will be down 12 percent when compared with March of 2007. J.D. Power and Associates reported that for the first half of March, information from dealers showed nearly a 22 percent decline from the same period last year.

Consumer confidence plunges in March

NEW YORK (AP)—American consumers are gloomier about the economy than at any point since just before the U.S. invasion of Iraq, as slumping housing prices and soaring fuel costs depress consumer confidence to its lowest level in five years. The Conference Board, a business-backed research group, said Tuesday that its Consumer Confidence Index plunged to 64.5 in March from a revised 76.4 in February. The March reading was far below the 73.0 expected by analysts surveyed by Thomson/IFR and was the worst reading since the gauge registered 61.4 in March 2003, just ahead of the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Nation

Crane accident in Miami kills 2, hurts 5

MIAMI (AP)—Part of a construction crane plummeted 30 floors at the site of a high-rise condominium Tuesday, smashing into a home that the contractor used for storage and killing two workers, police said.

Five workers were injured, including one in critical condition, officials said. The other four had injuries not considered life-threatening.

One of those killed died inside the house, and the other died at a hospital, police spokesman Delrish Moss said.

The crane's main vertical section was intact, but the part that fell was a 20-foot section that workers had been raising to extend the equipment's reach, Miami fire spokesman Ignatius Carroll said. It fell 30 floors and smashed through the home's Spanish-tiled roof.

Authorities were checking employee logs to make sure no workers were missing. But an initial survey by rescue workers and dogs found no evidence of victims trapped at the site of the 40-plus-story luxury condo tower on Biscayne Bay, Moss said.

Fire officials said rescue efforts were hampered because the crane remained unstable.

David Martinez, 31, a pipe fitter, was on the fourth floor of the condo tower eating lunch when the crash occurred.

"It was like a small earthquake," he said. "We looked outside, and we couldn't even see." It took several minutes for the dust to clear, Martinez said.



Construction workers look on as a section of a crane is lifted from a house and set on the ground Tuesday, March 25, 2008 in Miami.

Pentagon admits mistake in Taiwan arms shipment

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. military's mistaken delivery to Taiwan of electrical fuses for an intercontinental ballistic missile raised concerns Tuesday over U.S.-China relations and triggered a broad investigation into the security of Pentagon weapons.

While the shipment did not include nuclear materials, the error is particularly sensitive because China vehemently opposes U.S. arms sales to Taiwan. Four of the cone-shaped fuses were shipped to Taiwanese officials in fall 2006 instead of the helicopter batteries they had ordered.

Despite quarterly checks of the inventory, defense officials said they never knew the fuses were gone. Only after months of discussions with Taiwan over the missing batteries did the Pentagon finally realize—late last week—the gravity of what had happened.

Once the error was discovered, the military quickly recovered the four fuses. How it happened, and whether the incident constitutes a violation of any treaty or agreement governing international sales of missile technology, were lingering questions.

At a hastily called news conference Tuesday, Ryan Henry, the No. 2 policy official in Defense Secretary Robert Gates' office, said President Bush as well as Chinese leaders were informed of the mistake—an error Henry called intolerable.

"I can not emphasize forcefully enough how strong the secretary feels about this matter and how disconcerting it is to him," Henry told reporters. He added that in an organization the size of the Defense Department there will be mistakes, but that "they cannot be tolerated in the arena in strategic systems, whether they are nuclear or only associated equipment, as was in this case."

Clinton says she erred on Bosnia story

GREENSBURG, Pa. (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton said Tuesday she made a mistake in claiming that she came under hostile fire in Bosnia 12 years ago, as rival Barack Obama's campaign continued to challenge her credibility.

In a recent speech and interviews, the New York senator described a harrowing scene in Tuzla, Bosnia, in which she and her daughter, Chelsea, had to run for cover as soon as they landed for a visit in 1996. But video footage of the day showed a peaceful reception in which a young girl greeted the first lady on the tarmac.

Clinton told reporters in Pennsylvania on Tuesday that she erred in describing the scene, which she now realizes after talking with aides and others.

"So I made a mistake," she

said. "That happens. It proves I'm human, which you know, for some people, is a revelation."

The more important issue, she said, is whether she would be a better commander in chief than Obama or Republican presidential candidate John McCain. Clinton and Obama are competing for votes in Pennsylvania's April 22 primary.

Clinton's aides had tried to control the Bosnia flap Monday, saying the New York senator "misspoke."

But Clinton had to address the issue herself Tuesday, after repeated airings of the 1996 video clips caused critics to ridicule her.

Reminded that she had said it was the first time she had misspoken in 12 years, Clinton told reporters: "I was joking. Lighten up, guys."



Clinton

Dad guilty of putting baby in microwave

GALVESTON, Texas (AP)—A young father was convicted Tuesday of badly injuring his infant daughter by putting her in a microwave, with jurors rejecting his claim that he was insane at the time.

Jurors deliberated about four hours before finding 20-year-old Joshua Mauldin guilty of felony injury to a child.

After the verdict, jurors began hearing testimony in the punishment phase of the trial. Mauldin faces anything from probation to life in prison.

Mauldin pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity, saying

he was having a psychotic episode when he put his then 2-month-old daughter, Ana, in a hotel microwave for 10 to 20 seconds last May while her mother and grandmother were away.

Prosecutors and Mauldin's defense attorney, Sam Cammack III, had no immediate comment after the verdict.

Mauldin sat emotionless as his daughter's foster mother detailed in penalty phase testimony how Ana's wounds still need to be cleaned every day and how she screams during the painful process.

ACROSS THE NATION

Search for sunken vessel survivors ends

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—The Coast Guard said Tuesday that it suspended the search for the lone crew member still missing after a fishing vessel sank in frigid waters off Alaska's Aleutian Islands. The crew member, Satoshi Konno of Japan, was wearing a survival suit when the ship went down Sunday, but officials said it would have been difficult for him to sustain the dangerous 36-degree temperatures in the Bering Sea. The search ended late Monday. Coast Guard Rear Adm. Gene Brooks said in a statement. Konno perhaps fell into the water from a rescue basket, and officials were investigating.

Contaminated Colo. water system flushed

ALAMOSA, Colo. (AP)—Crews started pumping chlorine through this southern Colorado city's water system Tuesday to rid it of salmonella bacteria that has sickened nearly 250 people. Residents will not be able to drink the water until the last of the disinfecting chemical washes out of the water system, possibly a couple of weeks, officials said. Bathing with it may be allowed within a couple of days. In the meantime, water distribution centers were set up throughout town and Mayor Pro Tem Kathy Rogers said there were plans

to bring in temporary showers if necessary. Residents were unsure they would be able to stay in their homes while the system was disinfected.

Detroit mayor, aide plead not guilty

DETROIT (AP)—Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and his former top aide pleaded not guilty Tuesday to charges they lied under oath about having an affair. The mayor and former Chief of Staff Christine Beatty appeared for separate hearings in the scandal that is threatening to prematurely end Kilpatrick's second term. District Court Magistrate Steve Lockhart entered not guilty pleas for each of them on charges of perjury, conspiracy, obstruction of justice and misconduct in office. Both were released on personal bonds. The two are accused of lying under oath about an affair and their roles in the firing of a top police official. Text messages first reported by the Detroit Free Press revealed a flirty, sometimes explicit, dialogue between the two.

Tech families react to settlement

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Those close to the victims of the Virginia Tech mass shootings offered mixed reactions Tuesday to a proposed multimillion-dollar state settlement and whether it will properly

honor their loved ones. Families of the victims have until Monday to say whether they'll accept the settlement, which would give \$100,000 to representatives of each of the 32 killed and ensures that families will have the chance to talk to the governor and university officials about the shootings. Under the proposal, \$800,000 would be available to injured victims. They and the families of those killed could seek additional money from a \$1.75 million hardship fund.

Court overturns air passenger rights law

NEW YORK (AP)—A federal appeals court Tuesday struck down a state law requiring airlines to give food, water, clean toilets and fresh air to passengers stuck in delayed planes, saying the measure was well-intentioned but stepped on federal authority. The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said New York's law—the first of its kind in the country—interferes with federal law governing the price, route or service of an air carrier. The law was passed after thousands of passengers were stranded aboard airplanes for up to 10 hours on several JetBlue Airways flights at Kennedy International Airport on Valentine's Day last year. They complained they were deprived of food and water and that toilets overflowed.

Asia

China tightens grip on Tibet monasteries

BEIJING (AP)—A top Chinese security official has criticized Tibetan Buddhist monks for taking part in anti-government protests, touring three key monasteries in Lhasa to drive home China's message.

Public Security Minister Meng Jianzhu announced that "patriotic education" classes would be expanded at monasteries, the Tibet Daily reported Tuesday. His visit was the first by a high-level central government official since protests in the Tibetan capital turned violent this month.

■■■■■
KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Police armed with bamboo sticks stopped a protest by Tibetan refugees and monks in front of the Chinese Embassy in Nepal on Tuesday and arrested about 100 participants.

Chanting "Free Tibet" and "Chinese thieves leave our country," the protesters approached the visa office of the Chinese Embassy in Katmandu, a day after police broke up at least two anti-Chinese rallies in the capital and arrested

about 475 people, according to the United Nations.

Police officers stopped the protesters at the gate of the fortified embassy compound and tried to push them away from the area. When the demonstrators refused to leave, the officers shoved about 100 protesters into vans and trucks and drove them to detention centers. About 50 more protesters ran away.

■■■■■
Unrest among Buddhist clergy has been blamed in part on the widely reviled classes, which force monks to make ritual denunciations of their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, and declare loyalty to Beijing.

Monks and nuns who refuse to cooperate can be jailed. The U.S. State Department said in its 2007 report on religious freedom around the world that dozens of Tibetan clergy were serving prison terms for their resistance to "patriotic" or political education.

Despite such complaints—and repeated government claims that all Tibetans support the Chinese government's stance—Meng



Police officers drag away a Tibetan monk while he attempts to nurse an injured fellow monk laying on his lap as Tibetans protest against Chinese rule in Tibet, outside the Chinese Embassy's visa office in Katmandu, Nepal, Tuesday, March 25, 2008.

said during his trip to Lhasa on Monday that the campaign should be expanded in a bid to "grasp and direct public opinion in the correct direction."

"Deeply enact propaganda education in ethnic and religious

policies and the legal system among all the temples," he was quoted as saying. "Let all people at home and abroad and all ethnic groups thoroughly understand the true facts of the matter."

In visits to Jokhang Temple,

Tibet's most sacred shrine, as well as Sera and Drepung monasteries, where the initial protests were launched March 10, Meng criticized the monks for participating in the protests.

"Every religion should carry

out their activities according to the law and should never undermine national solidarity," he was quoted as saying by the official state news agency Xinhua. "Participating in the riot essentially violated the doctrines of Tibetan Buddhism."

He was accompanied by Zhang Qingli, Tibet's hard-line Communist Party leader, who said the region was in the front lines of a battle with the Dalai Lama and his followers. "From start to finish, we face a prolonged, extreme, complex struggle," he said.

Their harsh words signaled China's intention to keep a hard-line stance in its dealings with Tibet.

"It's completely unsurprising that an intensification of the 'patriotic education' would take place in the wake of these riots in Lhasa," said Barry Sautman, a China expert and social science professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. "(Zhang) is someone who cut his teeth fighting separatism in Xinjiang and now Tibet. He'll make use of the tried and true method."

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

RP lake in danger of dying, official says

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A prominent Philippine lake, one of Southeast Asia's largest, could become biologically dead in a few years if rampant pollution is not stopped, an official said Tuesday. Laguna de Bay, located southeast of the capital, Manila, has become a virtual "septic tank" from the influx of more than 32,000 impoverished families, who dump their waste into the sprawling freshwater lake from illegal shanties along its 238-kilometer (147-mile) shoreline, according to Edgardo Manda, who heads the Laguna Lake Development Authority. Factories have sprouted along the shore of Laguna de Bay over the years, and some of the 14 cities and 47 towns in the area also have contributed to the pollution by operating garbage dumps that leak waste into the lake. The shallow lake produces about a third of metropolitan Manila's supply of milkfish and other edible fish, helps generate electricity and serves as a key transport route, Manda said.

Court: Key witness in RP Senate probe can stay quiet

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A key witness in a corruption scandal hounding the Philippine government can refuse to answer senators' questions about his conversations with the president, the Supreme

Court ruled Tuesday. Former Socio-economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri testified last year that he told President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo he had been offered a bribe to endorse an allegedly overpriced telecommunications contract. But he refused to say what happened next. According to other witness testimonies, Neri told friends in private that Arroyo asked him not to accept the bribe but to endorse the deal anyway. Neri has denied that she ordered him to have the deal approved. Hoping to prove that Arroyo committed an offense by ignoring Neri's report, opposition senators wanted him to elaborate in a Senate inquiry. But nine of the 15 Supreme Court justices agreed Tuesday that Neri could not be forced to talk about his private conversations with the president, which are protected by "executive privilege."

US-backed hunt for terror suspect continues

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—U.S.-backed Philippine troops have pressed ahead with a manhunt for a top Indonesian terror suspect believed to have helped plot the deadly 2002 Bali bombings despite suspicion that he was killed in a clash, officials said Tuesday. Troops have checked at least two reported sightings but failed to find Dulmatin on southern Jolo island after the

military reported last month that marines dug up his suspected body in nearby Tawi-Tawi province, police said. U.S., Australian, Philippine and Indonesian experts have been conducting DNA tests on the body, which bore gunshot wounds and resembled Dulmatin, for more than a month and were expected to announce the results soon. Dulmatin, identified by his wife as Ammar Usman, is believed to be a master bomb-maker of the Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiyah militant group.

Arroyo plans to visit disputed Spratly Islands

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo plans to visit the disputed Spratly Islands amid fears by legislators that a joint seismic study with China and Vietnam has weakened Manila's territorial claims, an official said Monday. A similar visit last month by then-Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian to an island claimed by his country sparked protests from Vietnam and the Philippines. The Spratlys, believed to be rich in oil, gas and fish stocks, consist of about 100 barren islets, reefs and atolls dotting the world's busiest shipping lanes in the South China Sea. Vietnam, China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei each claim all or part of the low-lying islands.

Pilot error cited in Indonesia crash

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—An Indonesian pilot shouted "Pull up! Pull up!" seconds before his jetliner plunged into the sea last year, killing all 102 people on board, according to an investigation Tuesday that blamed his errors and a faulty navigation system for the disaster.

"This is really bad. It is starting to fly like a bamboo ship," said one of the two pilots before the Boeing 737 crashed, according to comments captured by the cockpit voice recorder. "This is crazy!"

Last week, the government revoked low-cost carrier Adam Air's operating license because of its poor safety record.

The National Transportation Safety Committee said 154 re-

curing defects in the plane's navigation system were reported in the months leading up to New Year's Day crash, and that the carrier failed to properly address those reports or train pilots to deal with them.

The plane was flying from the main island of Java to an airport in the east of Indonesia when it spiraled from the sky at a height of 33,000 feet. It took around two minutes to hit the sea, the report said.

Several days passed before fisherman and navy boats discovered wreckage from the plane floating on the ocean. Both flight data recorders were eventually recovered from the sea bed, but the plane's mostly intact fuselage remains there.

Kris Aquino suffers miscarriage

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The daughter of former Philippine president and democracy icon Corazon Aquino suffered a miscarriage one day after announcing to the world that her mother was battling colon cancer, officials said Wednesday.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who had a falling out with the Aquinos over political differences, offered her prayers for Kris Aquino as well as her 75-year-old mother.

"The president prays for Kris, especially owing to the fact that she campaigned for her in the

2004 elections," presidential aide Cerge Remonde said.

Local media reported Kris Aquino, 37, a mother of two and a popular television host, was seven weeks pregnant when she had a miscarriage Tuesday, a day after she and her brother, a senator, read a statement on nationwide television saying their mother was diagnosed with colon cancer.

The former president has started treatment, but no details have been made available. Her family has asked the media to respect their privacy.



Aquino

Japan plans to reduce garbage by 60 percent

TOKYO (AP)—Japan will urge citizens to carry their own chopsticks instead of using disposable ones and go shopping with their own bags instead of using plastic ones, in a bid to more than halve the garbage it produces.

The Cabinet approved a set of plans Tuesday to promote recycling, said Tsuyoshi Kawakami, an official in charge of recycling at the Environment Ministry.

Japan aims to reduce the total amount of garbage produced by industries and individuals to 25.3 million tons—40 percent of the amount produced in fiscal 2000—by fiscal 2015 under the plan posted on the ministry's Web site. The fiscal year begins in April in Japan.

The government target for individuals was a reduction of 20 percent.

"We are still lacking efforts. We have not been able to break away from the mass consumption society," Kawakami said.

Stores in Japan normally hand out plastic and paper bags, while gifts are typically wrapped in elaborate packaging. Environmentalists criticize the wide use of disposable wooden chopsticks in the country.

The adopted plans also encourage people to use public transportation and ride bicycles.

World

US, Iraqi troops battle Shiite militia

WORLD BRIEFS

Saudi King calls for interfaith dialogue

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—The Saudi king has made an impassioned plea for dialogue among Muslims, Christians and Jews—the first such proposal from a nation with no diplomatic ties to Israel and a ban on non-Muslim religious services and symbols. The message from King Abdullah, which was welcomed by Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders, comes at a time of stalled peace initiatives and escalating tensions in the region. “The idea is to ask representatives of all monotheistic religions to sit together with their brothers in faith and sincerity to all religions as we all believe in the same God,” the king told delegates Monday night at a seminar on “Culture and the Respect of Religions.”

Argentine farm strike enters 13th day

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—President Cristina Fernandez refused to ease tax hikes on agricultural exports Tuesday, facing down angry farmers embroiled in a nationwide strike that has all but halted production in one of the world's biggest beef-eating and beef-exporting nations. At least 9,000 cattle normally enter this capital's sprawling stockyard each day for slaughter, yet not a single animal arrived this week due to the biggest farm and ranch strike in decades. Scattered shops began emptying of beef, milk, chicken and cooking oil Tuesday as farmworkers mounted the most serious challenge yet to Fernandez's fledgling government.

Sarkozy could skip Olympics opening

PARIS (AP)—French President Nicolas Sarkozy suggested Tuesday that a boycott of the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics was a possibility—the first world leader to raise the prospect of punishing China over its ongoing crackdown in Tibet. The United States, Britain and Germany all condemned China for using force against Tibetan protesters, but they stopped short of threatening to boycott the games or the Aug. 8 opening ceremony. Sarkozy couched his comments cautiously: He made it clear that skipping the ceremony was one of several possible French responses to the violence in Tibet. “Our Chinese friends must understand the worldwide concern

that there is about the question of Tibet, and I will adapt my response to the evolutions in the situation that will come, I hope, as rapidly as possible,” he said in southwest France.

Comoros soldiers seize rebel capital

ANJOUAN, Comoros (AP)—The Comoros army seized the capital of this rebel-held island Tuesday, but sporadic fighting persisted as troops flushed out pockets of resistance and searched for the renegade colonel who hoped to make Anjouan independent. Explosions and gunfire started before dawn as hundreds of soldiers backed by an African Union force moved into the town of Mutsamudu against forces led by Col. Mohamed Bacar. Crowds of jubilant residents poured into the streets to cheer the invaders, chanting “Bacar is a dog!” and “We have won!” There was no official word on casualties.

Belarus protesters clash with police

MINSK, Belarus (AP)—Police beat demonstrators with truncheons and hauled them into waiting trucks Tuesday as thousands of opposition protesters turned out in defiance of a government ban on a Belarusian holiday. President Alexander Lukashenko's authoritarian government had vowed to prevent any rallies marking what the opposition has traditionally called “Freedom Day.” March 25 is the anniversary of the 1918 declaration of the first, short-lived independent Belarusian state, and a traditional day of demonstration by the opposition. Opposition groups reported security agents arresting activists around the country ahead of Tuesday's demonstrations.

9 killed in Guatemala shootout

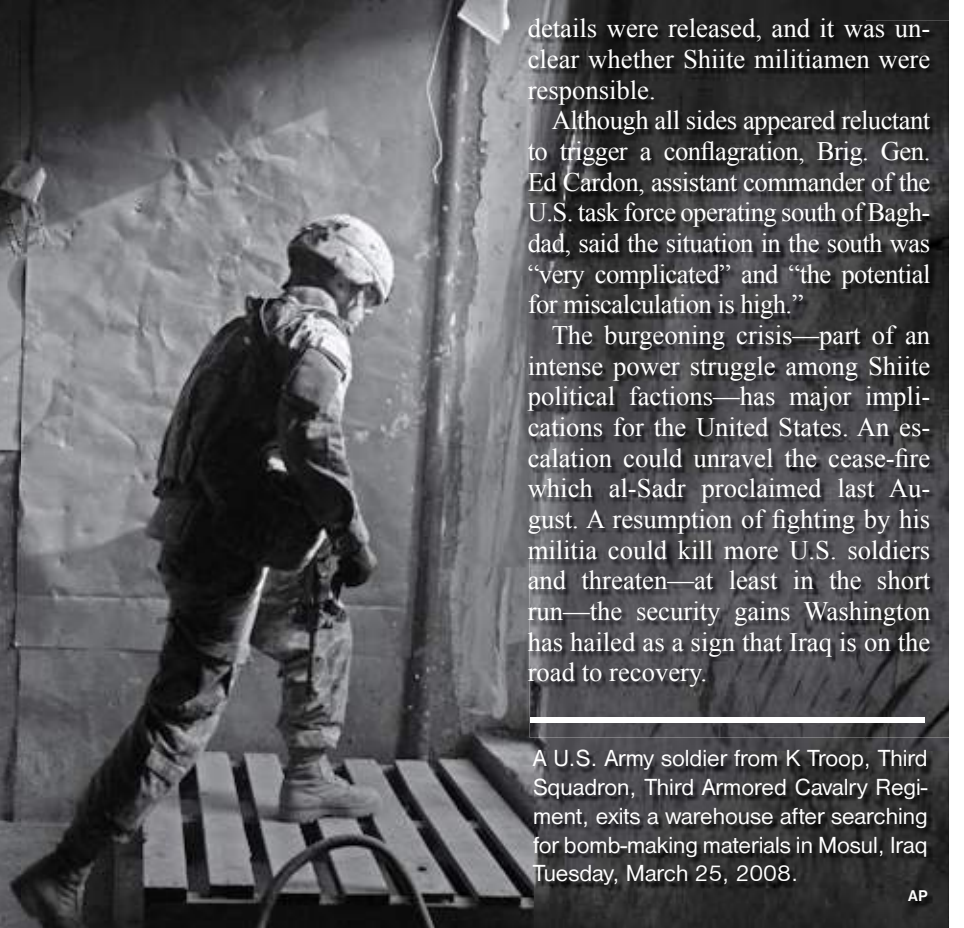
GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—Police say at least nine people have been killed and seven wounded in a shootout in eastern Guatemala that is likely tied to drug traffickers. Interior Ministry spokesman Ricardo Gatica Trejo says the nine people killed were apparently ambushed Tuesday in the town of Teculután. Trejo says police have arrested three Mexicans and three Guatemalans who were carrying an arsenal of automatic rifles and grenades near the shootout. Investigators are still trying to determine if those arrested are linked to the attack.

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's leaders faced their gravest challenge in months Tuesday as Shiite militiamen loyal to anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr battled government forces for control of the southern oil capital, fought U.S. and Iraqi troops in Baghdad and unleashed rockets on the Green Zone.

Armed Mahdi Army militiamen appeared on some Baghdad streets for the first time in more than six months, as al-Sadr's followers announced a nationwide campaign of strikes and demonstrations to protest a government crackdown on their movement. Merchants shuttered their shops in commercial districts in several Baghdad neighborhoods.

U.S. and Iraqi troops backed by helicopters fought Shiite militiamen in Baghdad's Sadr City district after the local office of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's Dawa Party came under attack, the U.S. said. Residents of the area reported intermittent explosions and gunfire in the area late Tuesday.

An American soldier was killed in fighting Tuesday afternoon in Baghdad, the U.S. military said. No further



details were released, and it was unclear whether Shiite militiamen were responsible.

Although all sides appeared reluctant to trigger a conflagration, Brig. Gen. Ed Cardon, assistant commander of the U.S. task force operating south of Baghdad, said the situation in the south was “very complicated” and “the potential for miscalculation is high.”

The burgeoning crisis—part of an intense power struggle among Shiite political factions—has major implications for the United States. An escalation could unravel the cease-fire which al-Sadr proclaimed last August. A resumption of fighting by his militia could kill more U.S. soldiers and threaten—at least in the short run—the security gains Washington has hailed as a sign that Iraq is on the road to recovery.

A U.S. Army soldier from K Troop, Third Squadron, Third Armored Cavalry Regiment, exits a warehouse after searching for bomb-making materials in Mosul, Iraq Tuesday, March 25, 2008.

AP

US ship shoots at boat in Suez Canal

SUEZ, Egypt (AP)—Dozens of angry mourners buried an Egyptian man Tuesday who they said was killed by shots fired from an American cargo ship contracted to the U.S. Navy as it passed through the Suez Canal.

U.S. officials said American military guards aboard the ship

only fired warning shots toward approaching motorboats Monday night and said they had received no report of anyone being killed.

The incident occurred when the merchant ship Global Patriot entered the canal from the Red Sea and was approached by small

motorboats that ply the waterway selling goods to passing ships, according to both Egyptian and U.S. accounts of the incident.

The Navy has been leery of small boats getting near its warships since al-Qaida suicide attackers rammed an explosives-packed motorboat into the USS

Cole off Yemen, killing 17 sailors in 2000.

Cmdr. Lydia Robertson, spokeswoman for the Bahrain-based U.S. 5th Fleet, said cargo ships sailing under contract to the Navy follow the same rules of engagement as American warships in dealing with approaching boats.

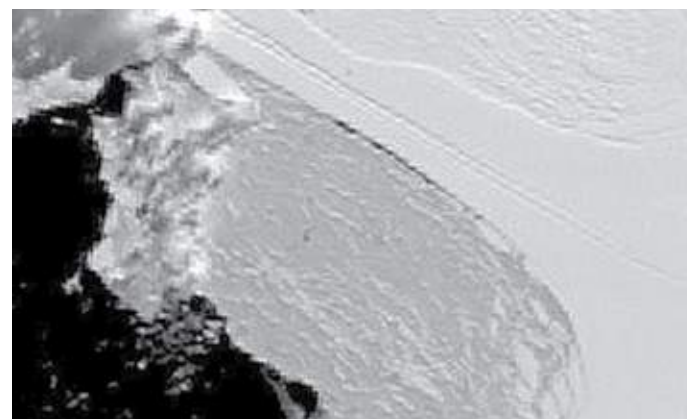
Western Antarctic ice chunk collapses

WASHINGTON (AP)—A chunk of Antarctic ice about seven times the size of Manhattan suddenly collapsed, putting an even greater portion of glacial ice at risk, scientists said Tuesday.

Satellite images show the runaway disintegration of a 160-square-mile chunk in western Antarctica, which started Feb. 28. It was the edge of the Wilkins ice shelf and has been there for hundreds, maybe 1,500 years.

This is the result of global warming, said British Antarctic Survey scientist David Vaughan.

Because scientists noticed satellite images within hours, they diverted satellite cameras and even flew an airplane over the ongoing collapse for rare



This satellite photo released by the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado at Boulder shows a detail of the Wilkins Ice Shelf on March 6, 2008 on the Southwest Antarctic Peninsula as it began to break apart.

pictures and video.

“It’s an event we don’t get

to see very often,” said Ted Scambos, lead scientist at the

National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colo. “The cracks fill with water and slice off and topple... That gets to be a runaway situation.”

While icebergs naturally break away from the mainland, collapses like this are unusual but are happening more frequently in recent decades, Vaughan said. The collapse is similar to what happens to hardened glass when it is smashed with a hammer, he said.

The rest of the Wilkins ice shelf, which is about the size of Connecticut, is holding on by a narrow beam of thin ice. Scientists worry that it too may collapse. Larger, more dramatic ice collapses occurred in 2002 and 1995.

Auction of French first lady nude photo

PARIS (AP)—A nude photo of France's first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy will be auctioned off at a sale next month in New York City, an auction house said.

The image was taken by photographer Michel Comte in 1993, when Bruni-Sarkozy was one of the world's most sought-

after models. In the black-and-white photo, she strikes a pigeon-toed pose, her hands covering her crotch.

An official at French President Nicolas Sarkozy's office declined Tuesday to comment on the April 10 sale, saying it concerned the leader's private life.

The photo is expected fetch \$3,000-\$4,000 at the auction, to be held at Rockefeller Plaza, according to the Web site for Christie's auction house.

Sarkozy divorced his second wife in October and married the Italian-born former model—now a successful

singer—in February, after a quick courtship.

Bruni-Sarkozy was to undertake her first state visit as France's first lady on Wednesday, with a two-day trip to Britain, where she and her husband are expected to attend a lavish banquet held by Queen Elizabeth II.

Environment

Recycling to protect our reefs

The more we recycle, the less garbage will reach the ocean and use less of the earth's resources.

Ocean pollution is harmful to marine life and our coral reefs.

Many household waste products can be recycled: bottles,

cans, clothing, plastics, paper, glass, metal, garden refuse, building debris and other waste materials.

Not only can we protect our reefs by recycling, we can also adopt pollution prevention strat-

egies that produce less waste in the first place. Ways to produce less waste include reusing materials, using reusable items rather than disposable ones, and reducing the amount of packaging we use.

We can also take steps to keep waste from getting into the ocean. Most importantly, littering should be prevented. Boaters and beach-goers should ensure that trash and other items are not blown or washed away. Before trash is left out for collection, it should be tightly secured in bags or trash cans to ensure that trash stays in its

proper place.

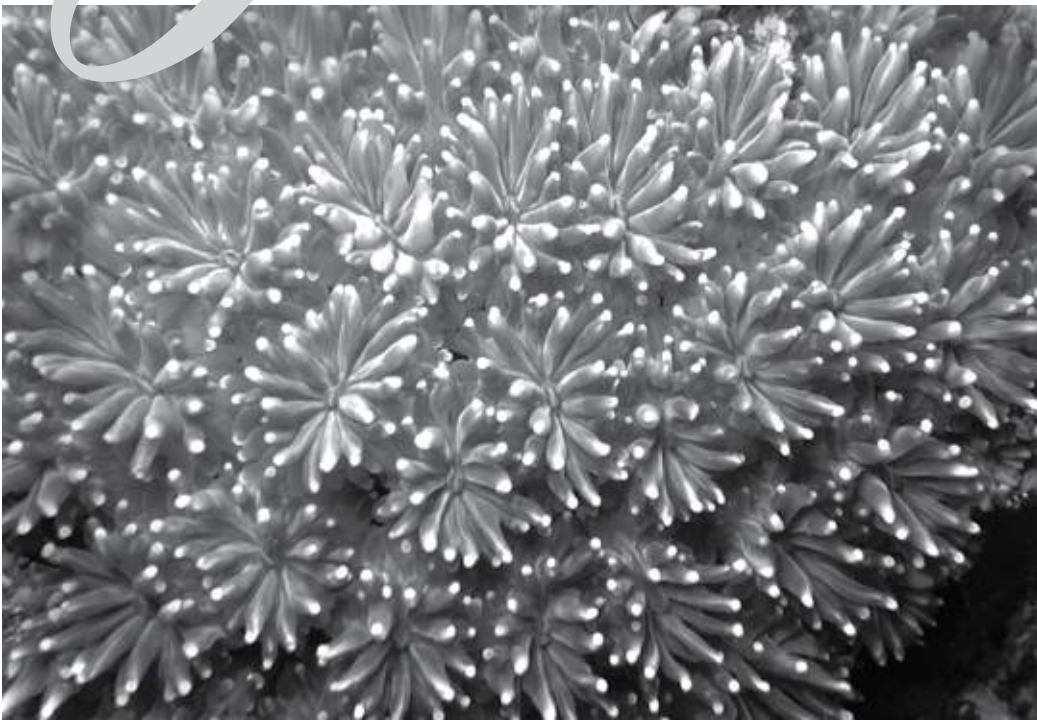
Garbage in our marine environment can last a long time. Here's a list of some household items and their timeline:

- Cardboard: 2 weeks
- Newspaper: 6 weeks
- Apple Core: 2 months
- Plywood: 1-3 years
- Cigarette Butts: 5-15 years
- Tin Cans: 50 years

- Styrofoam: 50 years
- Aluminum Cans: 200 years

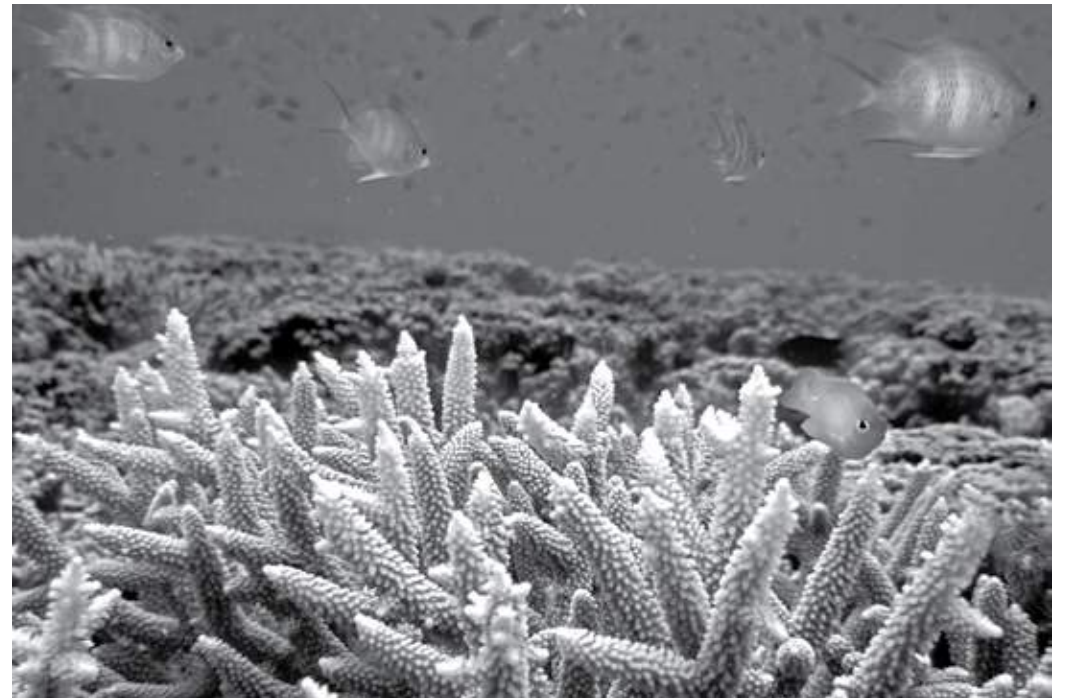
■ 6-pack Rings: 400 years
 ■ Plastics: 450 years
 Remember, reusing, recycling or composting waste materials is always the ideal option.

Reefs enrich our health, our wealth, our lives. Every Act Counts. **(CoCo)**



GREG MORETTI

Reefs enrich our health, our wealth, our lives.



GREG MORETTI

Ocean pollution is harmful to marine life and our coral reefs.

April 11 is 'Take the Right Route' Day

Take the "Right Route" on April 11 by walking, running, biking, or carpooling to work or school in order to reduce your carbon footprint.

What is your carbon footprint?

Your carbon footprint is the direct effect that your actions and lifestyle have on the environment in terms of CO₂ emissions. Probably the biggest contributors to your personal "footprint" are your travel needs, and your electricity demands. The power used to move (most) cars, planes, and to provide us with electricity is supplied by burning fossil fuel (e.g., coal, oil, gasoline). These actions contribute to accelerating global warming and climate change.

What is climate change?

Climate change, or global warming, is the result of a build up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, chiefly carbon dioxide (CO₂). These gases trap the sun's heat in the atmosphere and keep the earth warm. However, when the concentration of these gases gets too high, the earth's equilibrium gets out of balance, and we experience a dangerous rise in temperatures. Temperature rise can result in severe weather conditions and

storms; sea level rise and shoreline loss; and an increase in the ocean's temperatures resulting in coral bleaching and even coral death. The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects that global temperatures will rise an additional 3 to 10° F by

Everyone has a responsibility to the world we live in now and the world we will leave to future generations. Take a first step to reduce your carbon footprint and "Take the Right Route" on April 11 by walking, running, biking, or carpooling to work or school. You will save one pound of CO₂ for every mile you don't drive, save money, and maybe even your waistline.

Individuals, schools, and organizations are invited to take part.

Please contact:

Saipan

■ Kathy Yuknavage, CRM Natural Resources Planner and MINA Board at 664-8311 or kathy.yuknavage@crm.gov.mp;

Rota

■ Bill Pendergrass, CRM Coastal Coordinator at 532-0466 or william.pendergrass@crm.gov.mp;

■ Lihla Noori, Coral Management Specialist DEQ/CRMO/DFW at 532-3102 or lihla.noori@gmail.com;

Tinian

■ Edwin Hofschneider, CRM Coastal Coordinator at 433-0494 or Edwin.hofschneider@crm.gov.mp

For more information, visit www.crm.gov.mp or www.minapacific.org.

Sources: <http://w.plant-a-tree-today.org> and www.ClimateCrisis.net.

the century's end!

What can you do to decrease your carbon footprint?

Coral internship deadline extended

The coral reef internship application has been extended to March 31, 2008.

The internship is available to post secondary students and will be placed at the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO), in Saipan, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"We've received a couple of inquiries from applicants from various countries so we want to clarify that preference will be

given to students with a long-term interest in working in the CNMI," said Reina Camacho, internship coordinator.

Camacho added that only eight positions are available for education/outreach, watershed, marine monitoring, fisheries management and marine conservation; and all applicants must submit the 4 required documents on or before the deadline in order to be considered.

Interns will develop and complete a project in marine resource management in addition to participating in ongoing

activities at the host agency. Interns Salary will be \$7 per hour for approximately 25 hours per week. Interns will be responsible for providing their own housing and transportation.

The available positions are posted at <http://www.deq.gov.mp/article.aspx?secID=12&artID=136>

The internship shall take place June through August, but actual dates and hours worked will vary according to availability. For more information, contact Reina Camacho at (670) 664-8522. **(CoCo)**

Play it safe, prevent poisonings, lock up pesticides

Every 13 seconds, a U.S. poison control center receives a call about an unintentional poisoning.

The American Association of Poison Control Centers reports that more than 50 percent of the two million poisoning incidents each year involve children younger than six years old. In 2006, poison centers reported more than 77,000 calls made to poison centers with concerns about potential exposure to common household pesticides (potential exposures do not necessarily represent a poisoning).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency observes National Poison Prevention Week each year to increase awareness of the danger to children of unintentional poisonings from pesticides

ON THE WEB

- Link to *Green Scene* Podcast: <http://www.epa.gov>
- EPA's Poison Prevention Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/poisonprevention.htm>
- The National Poison Center hotline is 1-800-222-1222.

and household products, and to encourage parents and caregivers to lock up products that could potentially harm children.

In observance of National Poison Prevention Week this year, (March 16-22), EPA launched a poison-prevention segment on *Green Scene*, EPA's new series of environmental videos. During an interview on *Green Scene*, Assistant Administrator Jim Gulliford, of the Office of Prevention Pesticides and Toxic Substances, discusses

Poison Prevention Week, how to protect your children from toxic substances around the home and how to respond in case of accidental poisoning.

EPA is also conducting extensive outreach targeting the Hispanic communities, including television interviews to be aired on "Cada Dia," Telemundo's national morning program and the Telemundo Washington affiliate in DC. Other interviews include Univision TV and Radio and CNN Radio en Espanol. **(EPA)**

Life & Style

Two crews, one mission: Save a boy's life

By **TERI WEAVER**
STARS AND STRIPES

Editor's Note: This article was originally published in the March 3, 2008, Mideast edition of Stars and Stripes.

Lionel Sanchez Jr.'s ordeal started a week before Christmas with a game of dodgeball at his school near As Lito, his home village on Saipan.

The ball glanced off the 7-year-old's right hip. It hurt, he told his mom.

By the end of the day he was running a fever. In the next few days, he stopped eating and sleeping. By Dec. 22, he broke out in a hive-like rash and began to gasp for air. By Christmas Day, after spending three nights in the hospital, he was vomiting blood and couldn't walk.

"It got worse," his mother, Amy Sanchez, said.

The day after Christmas, his lung blew a hole, filling his chest with too much air. His heart stopped. The medical team in Saipan called a code blue, inserted a chest tube, and revived the little boy, whose family calls him L.J.

"I wasn't sure if he was going to survive," said Lt. Col. Anne Naclerio, an Army pediatric intensive care doctor at Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii, who spent her Christmas on the phone with the medical team in Saipan. She offered advice, heard the code blue, and got ready to go.

Within hours, two U.S. Air Force C-17s were headed to the island.

One came from Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, filled with an Alaska-based flight crew and a group of Kadena flight nurses and medics from the 18th Air Medical Evacuation Squadron.

The second came from Hickam Air Force Base, manned by a Hawaiian Air National Guard unit. They had been scheduled to go the Philippines. Instead, they took



COURTESY OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE

Air Force and Army medical crews work to stabilize Lionel Sanchez Jr., a 7-year-old boy on Saipan, who was the focus of a dramatic airlift in late December. The military crews came from Okinawa and Hawaii to treat the boy and move him to Hawaii, in the hopes that more comprehensive care would save him.

on an Air Force pediatric critical care air transport team, including Naclerio and an anesthesiologist, and headed for Saipan.

Everyone landed on Dec. 27, Saipan time.

The Kadena squadron is part of a specialized Air Force unit whose mission includes airlifting servicemembers and other Americans with medical emergencies throughout the Pacific and Asia. They respond with their air ambulance about 300 times a year.

The pediatric critical care air transport team out of Hickam responds less frequently but carries the same mission, Naclerio said. As the military's only pediatric intensive care specialist in the Pacific, Naclerio makes emergency airlifts about three times a year. She goes only when specialized care is needed.

In this case, L.J. needed all the help he could get.

After the landing, the medical teams rushed to the hospital and

worked for hours to stabilize L.J. so he could fly.

On the tarmac, the Alaska crew—part of the 517th Airlift Squadron from Elmendorf Air Force Base—refueled and waited. The Hawaii-based plane flew on to the Philippines; only one plane was needed to get L.J. to Hawaii.

Finally, after dark, L.J. was in an ambulance headed to the airport. His respiratory system was so weak that manual compressions were needed during the ride.

"That was just heartbreaking," said Air Force Lt. Col. David Almand, the commander of the Elmendorf squadron and himself a father of two sons, 4 and 8. Even after everyone got L.J. onto the plane, the pilot had to wait until the boy was stable.

An unofficial escort of family and friends had followed the ambulance in their own cars, honking their way down the island's Middle Road through

the daily traffic jam—crowds emerging from evening Mass.

The family stopped their cars at the runway's fence line. Nadine Aquino, L.J.'s aunt, and the others scrambled onto their car hoods and called family members on cell phones. When a plane takes off on the small island, most residents can hear it. L.J.'s family wanted to know when his plane was overhead.

Air Force Capt. Donna Hornberger, a flight nurse with the Kadena crew, had never seen such a unified effort from so many units to get a patient to a safer place.

"That mission solidified why I do what I do and highlighted the extent the U.S. military will go to save a life," she said. "His only real hope was to get him off the island."

The medical teams had figured out what was wrong with L.J. long before they put the planes in the air.

That dodgeball landed on a spot on his right hip that was infected with staphylococcus bacteria. Worse, the hip held an infected blood clot lying in wait. When the staph-laced clot went skipping throughout L.J.'s bloodstream, it started a war.

Part of the infected clot went into his right leg. Most of the bacteria settled in his left lung. When the body gets that sick, it fights so hard that healthy tissue falls victim to the attack, Naclerio said. With too little tissue and too much air, pressure builds on the lungs and heart.

A quick response from the doctors in Saipan—inserting the chest tube—kept him alive, Naclerio said. But they remained limited by the island's facilities, including the fact that the local hospital had no pediatric intensive care unit, L.J.'s mother said.

Saipan is the capital of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a chain of U.S.-controlled islands just north of Guam. Most of the islands' 70,000 residents live on Saipan, a place where immigration rules make it easy for migrant workers to power the islands' factories while gaining access to U.S. territory.

More than that, Saipan is a small place. It's the kind of place where the family of a sick boy orders pizza for the military teams gathered to save his life. It's the kind of place where a patient's relative can walk up to a C-17 crew and ask, politely, if he could take a peek at the place where the boy would be lying during his flight to Hawaii.

Two of L.J.'s uncles are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. At the airport, before L.J. stabilized, Amy Sanchez got to talk to one of those brothers by phone. He wanted to know the type of plane. She read off some numbers from a wing.

"That's a C-17," her brother told her. "Oh yeah, that's a good plane."

It helped, she said, a little.

Two months later, L.J. has had three surgeries and a head-to-toe bone scan. In the first week of February, doctors found more infection in his arm and created a hole to pump antibiotics in directly to the spot.

The next week, surgeons cleaned out more of the bacteria from his right hip-joint. Then they put the 7-year-old in a hip-to-foot cast to keep the leg stable, Amy Sanchez said. He must wear it for at least a month, she said. It was a setback. Until then, L.J. had begun to walk a little.

But the family remains hopeful. L.J. has started to gain back some of the 10 pounds he lost. With physical therapy and a few months of antibiotics therapy, L.J.'s doctors think he will make a full recovery.

For his part, L.J. is watching too many cartoons and still worried that everyone let him miss Christmas, Sanchez said.

"Why didn't you wake me up?" he has asked his mom as January passed into February.

"We were trying," she replied. "You were in a deep sleep."

Christmas is still waiting for L.J. in Saipan. His presents are still there, along with two younger sisters. They've been living with their grandmothers while Amy and Lionel Sanchez stay at a hotel near the Kapiolani Children's Hospital in Hawaii.

With the therapy, it may be months before the family can reunite, Amy Sanchez said.

"We're still crossing our fingers," she said.

Air Force Capt. Andrea Whitney, another flight nurse from the Kadena crew, has kept in touch with the family. A few weeks ago, she finally got to speak to L.J. on the phone.

Recounted Whitney: "He said, 'Thanks for the ride.'"

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D.B. Cooper's parachute possibly found

By **GENE JOHNSON**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SEATTLE (AP)—The FBI is analyzing a torn, tangled parachute found buried by children in southwest Washington to determine whether it might have been used by famed plane hijacker D.B. Cooper, the agency said Tuesday.

Children playing outside their home near Amboy found the chute's fabric sticking up from the ground in an area where their father had been grading a road, agent Larry Carr said. They

pulled it out as far as they could, then cut the parachute's ropes with scissors.

The children had seen recent media coverage of the case—he FBI launched a publicity campaign last fall, hoping to generate tips to solve the 36-year-old mystery—and they urged their dad to call the agency.

"When we went to the public, the whole idea was that the public is going to bring the answers to us," Carr said. "This is exactly what we were hoping for."

A man identifying himself as Dan Cooper—later mistakenly but enduringly identified as D.B. Cooper—hijacked a Northwest Orient flight from Portland, Ore., to Seattle in November 1971, claiming he had a bomb.

When the plane landed at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, he released the passengers in exchange for \$200,000 and asked to be flown to Mexico. He apparently parachuted from the plane's back stairs somewhere near the Oregon border.

Agents doubt he survived because conditions

were poor and the terrain was rough, but few signs of his fate have been found.

Carr spoke with the children's father, whom he declined to identify, early this month and learned the chute was white, the same color as Cooper's.

And when Carr overlaid the family's address onto a map investigators made in the early days of the investigation, he learned another encouraging fact: They lived right in Cooper's most probable landing zone, between Green and Bald mountains.

Carr hopped in his car and drove down. He dug around the property for about 45 minutes, unsuccessfully looking for a harness or other remains from the parachute, but the children weren't home, and the father wasn't sure exactly where they found it.

There are no obvious markings on the parachute to indicate whether it's the type Cooper used, a Navy Backpack 6 with a 26-foot canopy, Carr said. He's hoping a member of the public

who has expertise in the parachutes will come forward and confirm whether it's the right kind before the FBI bothers to excavate the property. Barring that, the agency could turn to scientific analysis of the fabric.

"We've got to be pretty darn sure we're not wasting time and money here," he said.

If it is Cooper's parachute, that will solve one mystery—where he apparently landed—but it will raise another, Carr said.

In 1980, a family on a picnic found \$5,880 of Cooper's money in a bag on a Columbia River beach, near Vancouver. Some investigators believed it might have been washed down to the beach by the Washougal River. But if Cooper landed near Amboy and stashed the money bag there, there's no way it could have naturally reached the Washougal.

"If this is D.B. Cooper's parachute, the money could not have arrived at its discovery location by natural means," Carr said. "That whole theory is out the window."

Obama related to Pitt, Clinton to Jolie



Obama



Pitt

BOSTON (AP)—This could make for one odd family reunion: Barack Obama is a distant cousin of actor Brad Pitt, and Hillary Rodham Clinton is related to Pitt's girlfriend, Angelina Jolie.

Researchers at the New England Historic Genealogical Society found some remarkable family connections for the three presidential candidates—Democratic rivals Obama and Clinton, and Republican John McCain.

Clinton, who is of French-Canadian descent on her mother's side, is also a distant cousin of singers Madonna, Celine Dion and Alanis Morissette. Obama, the son of a white woman from Kansas and a black man from Kenya, can call six U.S. presidents, including George W. Bush, his cousins. McCain is a sixth cousin of first lady Laura Bush.

"You'd think with all that singing talent in the family she'd be able to carry a tune," Clinton's senior adviser Philippe Reines said. "But now it makes much more sense how she snagged a Grammy."

Clinton won for best spoken word Grammy in 1997 for "It Takes a Village." Obama also won a Grammy in that category this year for the audio version of his book, "The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts On Reclaiming The American Dream."

Genealogist Christopher Child said that while the candidates often focus on pointing out differences between them, their ancestry shows they are more alike than they think.

"It shows that lots of different people can be related, people you wouldn't necessarily expect," Child said.

Obama has a prolific presidential lineage that features Democrats and Republicans. His distant cousins include President George W. Bush and his father, George H.W. Bush, Gerald Ford, Lyndon Johnson, Harry S. Truman and James Madison. Other Obama cousins include Vice President Dick Cheney, British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill and Civil War General Robert E. Lee.

Obama often jokes about his cousin Cheney at campaign appearances.

"His kinships are across the political spectrum," Child said.

Child has spent the last three years tracing the candidates' genealogy, along with senior research scholar Gary Boyd Roberts, author of the 1989 book, "Ancestors of American Presidents."

Clinton's distant cousins

include beatnik author Jack Kerouac and Camilla Parker-Bowles, wife of Prince Charles of England.

McCain's ancestry was more difficult to trace because records on his relatives were not as complete as records for the families of Obama and Clinton, Child said.

Obama and President Bush are 10th cousins, once removed, linked by Samuel Hinkley of Cape Cod, who died in 1662.

Pitt and Obama are ninth cousins, linked by Edwin Hickman, who died in Virginia in 1769. Ben LaBolt, a spokesman for the Obama campaign, declined to comment on the sena-

tor's ancestry.

Clinton and Jolie are ninth cousins, twice removed, both related to Jean Cusson who died in St. Sulpice, Quebec, in 1718.

The New England Historic Genealogical Society, founded in 1845, is the oldest and largest nonprofit genealogical organization in the country.

Lava lovers live with danger

AP

Big Island resident Jean Olson stands outside her home which sits atop of an active lava field, Tuesday, March 18, 2008 in Kalapana, Hawaii.



KALAPANA, Hawaii (AP)—As fiery lava pours down Kilauea volcano toward Jean Olson's lonely wooden house, incinerating everything in its path, there's no place she'd rather be.

"Why would I live here if I didn't like it? I have the best view of anyone in town," said Olson, who lives just over a mile from fountains of glowing lava spewing into the ocean. "Either she comes or she doesn't. If she comes, we'll pick up and leave."

Thousands of visitors a day come to nearby Hawaii Volcanoes National Park to watch Kilauea erupt, something it has been doing for a quarter-century. But some residents live with the boiling lava every day and revel in the notion that their homes and lives are subject to the whims of earth's awesome underground forces.

The danger has become clearer in recent weeks. Earlier this month, a two-block-wide swath of lava burned through abandoned homes and reached the ocean. And the first gas explosion at Kilauea's peak since 1924 scattered gravel onto a tourist lookout, road and trail before daybreak last week, injuring no one but spreading fear.

Olson and her scattered neighbors have built houses atop blasted land of hardened black crust where previous neighborhoods were destroyed by lava flows in 1990. Most get their power from solar panels, their water from the rain

and some of their food from gardens planted between lava rocks. Until a new lava viewing area began drawing big crowds a few weeks ago, they lived in relative isolation.

"This is heaven on earth," said Edmund Orian, who is building a house by hand out of lava rocks in Kalapana. "Living near a volcano keeps you aware that God is in control. If the lava comes, we can always move."

Kilauea has not been the kind of volcano that shoots lava from its summit into the sky, causing widespread destruction for miles around.

Instead, it has been a shield volcano, or one that oozes lava from fissures in its sides, giving residents at least a few hours' warning before it reaches their property. An estimated 8,500 people live in the Paho-Kalapana area at the volcano's base on the southeastern section of the Big Island.

In the 25 years of Kilauea's latest eruption, lava has not directly caused any deaths, according to National Park Service rangers, though there have been five fatalities when sightseers fell, got burned or suffered heart attacks.

Brenda Quihano witnessed the volcano obliterate her family's home in 1984, but her family wants to move back if Kilauea ever calms down a bit. She now lives in the Hawaiian Beaches neighborhood about 15 miles away, and the approaching lava doesn't scare her.

"If you worry about something and it doesn't happen, you look like a fool," said Quihano as she sold water, flashlights and cameras to volcano viewers. "I'm more scared of people than I am a volcano."

Lava recently destroyed four old structures in the mostly abandoned Royal Gardens subdivision, though two residents there refuse to move out. The molten rock has cut off Royal Gardens from the rest of the island, and the neighborhood is now accessible only by motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle or helicopter.

The current flow comes within 600 feet of the new viewing area, where people can watch the lava roll toward the ocean as it creates thick steam and new land.

It is difficult to forecast where the lava will go next or when the next major explosion will come, said Dave Wilson, a seismologist at Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. Significant activity would probably be preceded by hundreds of small earthquakes.

"At that point, you can say, 'Hey, we need to get everyone out of here because this looks like something bad is going to happen,'" Wilson said.

When that time comes, resident Gary Smith will be ready to forsake his two-story house.

"It's no big deal. You make peace with that when you build here," said Smith, who moved in three years ago. "It's amazing. People can live here and be

responsible for themselves and have the government stay out of their lives."

Besides lava reflections that paint the sky orange and easy access to the ocean, there's another reason people choose to live near the volcano: the price of land.

Property atop lava rock that could be overrun again at any time doesn't sell for much, and no developer is going to spend much on infrastructure for a neighborhood that has disappeared before and will probably do so again.

Olson said she paid \$3,000 for about six acres in 2000, and Smith put down \$95,000 for 21 acres in 2005. Both neighbors work in construction and built their houses themselves.

"It could come again and wipe this whole community out. Nobody knows," said Michael Silva, co-owner of Kalapana Village Cafe, whose business has increased by a third since the new viewing platform opened.

"There's nobody out there that doesn't know what they're buying. Some people, that's the reason they come here, for the thrill of the chance."

Resident Brad Wetmore has hosted a few "lava parties" where guests bring smoked salmon, caviar and drinks to enjoy as they watch the glowing sky and smell the salty ocean.

"They have no fear whatsoever of the lava. They invite the spectacle of seeing it on a daily basis," he said. "We live with it, not against it."

'Girls Gone Wild' founder accuses judge

PANAMACITY, Fla. (AP)—"Girls Gone Wild" founder Joe Francis accused a federal judge Tuesday of targeting him for retribution, saying he is behind a new lawsuit that accuses Francis of filming underage girls in sexually provocative acts.

Francis said U.S. District Judge Richard Smoak and Smoak's former law partner, Ross McCloy, are targeting him because his company met with a consulting firm about taking steps to impeach Smoak and have him removed from office.

McCloy is representing the four women who sued Francis last week. They allege they were 17, 16, 15 and 13 when his company solicited them to participate in sexually provocative videos in 2003 and earlier. They want unspecified monetary damages.

Smoak presided over an earlier, similar lawsuit against Francis that McCloy also

filed. Francis said the judge should have removed himself because of his relationship with McCloy. The lawsuit was later settled after Smoak jailed Francis for making threats during a deposition.

"We asked three times for the judge to recuse himself in front of his ex-law partner and he refused," Francis told The Associated Press. "This is America and we are not going to let that happen again. We are not going to let them put me in jail for a civil suit."

He called the latest lawsuit "Shakedown Part 2."

McCloy had no comment about Francis' allegations. Smoak did not immediately return a phone call placed to his office.

"Girls Gone Wild" is a series of videos showing young women exposing themselves, often at events like Mardi Gras and spring break. Francis has sold millions.



Man accused of stalking Tyra Banks

NEW YORK (AP)—A man charged with stalking Tyra Banks has been ordered to stay away from the talk-show host or face going to jail.

Brady Green, according to a criminal complaint, has followed Banks from coast to coast since January, sent her letters and flowers, and tried to telephone her. Last week he was issued a court order requiring him to leave her alone.

Green, of Dublin, Ga., was arrested when he showed up several times March 18 at the Manhattan building where "The Tyra Banks Show" is taped and asked to speak to

her, a misdemeanor complaint filed in Criminal Court says.

Banks also hosts the CW reality show "America's Next Top Model."

The complaint says building custodian Edward Troiano told police Green also had appeared at Banks' Los Angeles studio "on multiple occasions" and asked to speak to her. He said Green had sent her letters and flowers there and had tried to reach her

there by telephone at least five times, the complaint says.

Banks, 34, told police that Green's actions had caused her to fear that she was in danger.

Police charged Green, 37, with stalking, criminal trespass and harassment. After his arraignment last Wednesday on the charges, Criminal Court Judge Anthony Ferrara released him without bail and ordered him to return to court May 13.

A telephone call to Green's attorney wasn't immediately returned Monday.

The New York Post said the Chelsea studio staffers were worried about Green returning. The paper said they were handing out photos of Green on Friday with a warning to stay away from him.

Prosecutors said they did not have an address for Green, who likely could face up to a year in jail if convicted.

AP
Model Tyra Banks arrives at the CNN Heroes Awards, in this Dec. 6, 2007, file photo in New York.

Injured singer described as stable

HOUSTON (AP)—Even if he survives a horrific head injury suffered in a bus crash, Grammy-winning Tejano singer Emilio Navaira faces a long recovery and an uncertain future, his doctors say.

Navaira, 45, known to his fans simply as Emilio, was behind the wheel of his tour bus before dawn Sunday following a weekend show when it slammed into an interchange barrier on a Houston-area freeway, propelling him through the windshield.

Police said while the crash

remained under investigation, their preliminary probe showed Navaira was not licensed to drive the 26,000-pound bus. His agent said the singer loved to drive it and normally did.

The neurosurgeon who operated on the San Antonio-born Navaira to remove a blood clot warned that the performer "might not make it." Physicians hoped a research technique using hypothermia to lower his body temperature would keep Navaira's brain from further swelling and help his recovery.

Doctors began raising Navai-

ra's body temperature Tuesday.

Dr. Alex Valadka, director of neurotrauma services at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center and vice chair of neurosciences at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, described Navaira as stable.

"In his case, that's good," Valadka said. "We're still afraid something adverse could happen. The main thing we're watching continues to be the pressure in his brain."

Valadka said if the pressure increases, doctors would try medication to control it.

Clooney, Zellweger whistle-stop

DULUTH, Minn. (AP)—"Leatherheads" wasn't filmed here, and one of its characters—played by Renee Zellweger—spends part of the new movie disparaging the place, flung way atop the U.S. map as it is.

But Zellweger and her co-star, George Clooney, stopped by to thank the folks here anyway for the city's role in the football comedy, part of a promotional whistle-stop tour Monday that included Maysville, Ky., near Clooney's hometown.

At the Depot, an old train station in downtown Duluth, the stars arrived aboard a train—how else do you arrive via whistle-stop tour?—wearing period clothes reflecting the movie's 1920s setting.

Clooney, who also directed "Leatherheads," said he understands Duluth is "cold in February, so we ended up trying to find someplace a little warmer" for filming. The movie was inspired by the old, rough-and-tumble Duluth Eskimos pro football team of



AP
Actors George Clooney and Renee Zellweger enjoy a laugh during a news conference at a train museum, Monday, March 24, 2008, in Duluth, Minn., for the start of their promotional tour for the movie "Leatherheads."

the '20s, but was filmed last year in the Carolinas.

In "Leatherheads," which opens April 4, Clooney plays an aging player on the Duluth Bulldogs in 1925, while Zellweger plays a feisty Chicago

newspaper reporter.

Clooney said filmmakers wanted to call the team the Eskimos, but since there is drinking in the movie, the National Football League would not allow the name to be used.

Chef Paul Prudhomme grazed by bullet

GRETNA, La. (AP)—Celebrated chef Paul Prudhomme was setting up his cooking tent on the practice range at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans on Tuesday morning when he felt a sting in his right arm, just above his elbow.

Prudhomme shook his shirt sleeve and a .22 caliber bullet fell to the ground, a spokesman for the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office said.

Deputies believe Prudhomme was hit by a falling bullet, probably shot about 9:30 a.m. from

somewhere within a 1 1/2-mile radius of the golf course, said Col. John Fortunato. Prudhomme did not require medical attention.

"He thought it was a bee sting," Fortunato said. "Within five minutes, he was back to doing his thing."

Witnesses said the bullet cut Prudhomme's skin on his arm and put a hole in his white chef's coat. But Prudhomme continued cooking until he left the course about 3:30 p.m.

Prudhomme was at the course to cook for players, their caddies

and guests at the annual PGA Tour event, which begins Thursday and runs through Sunday.

Prudhomme, who grew up outside Opelousas, rose to prominence after being named the first American-born executive chef of New Orleans restaurant Commander's Palace in 1975. He landed on the national stage as the chef-owner of K-Paul's Louisiana Kitchen. He's also appeared several times as a guest on television network morning news shows and late night talk shows.

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Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears A Who

Friday 4:20 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:15 4:20 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:15 4:20 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:05

Jim Carrey (v), Steve Carell (v)
Family, Animated • Rated PG

Synopsis

An imaginative elephant named Horton hears a faint cry for help coming from a tiny speck of dust floating through the air. Although Horton doesn't know it yet, that speck houses an entire city named Who-ville, inhabited by the microscopic Whos, led by the Mayor. Despite being ridiculed and threatened by his neighbors, who think he has lost his mind, Horton is determined to save the particle—because "a person's a person, no matter how small."



Never Back Down

Friday 4:25 7:35 9:35
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:30 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:30

Sean Faris, Djimon Hounsou
Action, Drama • Rated PG13

Synopsis

Jake Tyler has recently moved to Orlando, Florida with his family to support his younger brother's shot at a professional tennis career. Jake was a star athlete on the football team at home, but in this new city he is an outsider with a reputation for being a quick tempered brawler. Making an attempt to fit in, at the invitation of a flirtatious classmate, Jake goes to a party where he is unwittingly pulled into a fight with a bully named Ryan McDonald.



10,000 BC

Friday 4:30 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:10

Omar Sharif, Steven Strait
Drama, Adventure • Rated PG13

Synopsis

In a remote mountain tribe, the young hunter D'Leh has found his heart's passion—the beautiful Evolet. But when a band of mysterious warlords raid his village and kidnap Evolet, D'Leh leads a small group of hunters to pursue the warlords to the end of the world to save her. As they venture into unknown lands for the first time, the group discovers there are civilizations beyond their own and that mankind's reach is far greater than they ever knew.



Rambo

Friday 4:10 7:15 10:00
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:15

Sylvester Stallone, Julie Benz
Action, Adventure • Rated R



Vantage Point

Friday 4:15 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:00

Dennis Quaid, Forest Whitaker
Drama, Thriller • Rated PG13



The Spiderwick Chronicles

Friday 4:00 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:20

Seth Rogen, Mary-Louise Parker
Fantasy, Children • Rated PG13



Jumper

Friday 4:05 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:25

Hayden Christensen, Samuel L. Jackson
Adventure, Sci-Fi • Rated PG13

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First 2 couples are done 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Magician Penn Jillette and tennis champ Monica Seles were the first stars eliminated from the sixth season of ABC's "Dancing With the Stars." Each came into Tuesday's results show in last place.

Jillette, 53, added a dash of magic to his quickstep, but his footwork failed to impress the judges. Despite his dismissal, the magician insisted that he and his professional partner would continue to rehearse daily and planned to perform in the parking lot.

"There's no way my dance career ends now," he said.

Before her name was announced, Seles said being the first woman to leave the show "would be really hard."

"I'm not used to losing," said the nine-time Grand Slam champ.

Judge Bruno Tonioli acknowledged that her tennis prowess didn't translate to the dance floor: "You're not a performer, and it's hard for you."

Still, he called the 34-year-old athlete "a legend."

"Somebody of your stature being here with us really is a



privilege, and you threw yourself (in) at the deep end," he said.

The show's first double-elimination round also featured a Cirque du Soleil-style acrobatic dance performance and two live songs by tween fave the Jonas Brothers. The pop-rock group played a cover of a-ha's 1985 hit "Take On Me," which was released before the trio of brothers was born, and the new song "When You Look Me in the Eyes."

The remaining competitors include radio host Adam Carolla, pro football player Jason Taylor, Olympic skater Kristi Yamaguchi, R&B singer Mario, and actors Steve Guttenberg, Shannon Elizabeth, Christian de la Fuente, Marlee Matlin, Priscilla Presley and Marissa Jaret Winokur.

Each will perform the tango or jive on next week's show.

In this photo provided by ABC, Penn Jillette, right, performs with his dancing partner Kym Johnson on the set of Dancing with the Stars in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles, Monday, March 24, 2008. AP

Renewal of vows can earn wows even on tight budget

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I couldn't help but be touched by the letter from Steve W. in Phoenix (Jan. 12), the retired Vietnam vet who wanted to give his wife of 40 years the "full-blown wedding she deserved."

My husband and I are retired and recently celebrated our 30th with a "renewal of vows" ceremony. It doesn't have to break the bank.

We planned a year in advance and saved money just for that occasion. I wore a secondhand wedding gown. My daughter and I shopped for decorations (instead of flowers) at the dollar store. It was beautiful.

Since I am retired military, I was able to use the chapel and the club on base, which was quite reasonable. But there are all kinds of other relatively inexpensive options for a reception—local fire hall, church basement or, in the summer, a public park.

My grown children are musicians, and they "gifted" us with their music at the chapel. We hired a DJ—which didn't cost much—and friends took photos and videos for us.

Abby, our first wedding was nice, but it was mostly for others. Our second wedding was for me and my husband -- and it was everything we hoped it would be.

—BOBBIE IN NORRISTOWN, PA.

DEAR BOBBIE: Congratulations on your 30th anniversary, and thank you for sharing your experience with me and my readers. Read on for several excellent comments and suggestions from others:

DEAR ABBY: You don't have to spend a lot of money for a renewal of vows. If you belong to a church, it will usually donate use of its social hall or sanctuary. The church surely will have some talented members who can help with decorations. Food shouldn't be a problem—you can do punch/coffee/cake for less than \$50. The entire event could be handled for under \$300.

To Steve W.'s "children": Think of your parents. You don't know how long you'll have them. Chip in (yes, use some of YOUR money) and make this a memorable occasion for them.

—BECKI IN GARDEN GROVE, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: We asked our new priest if he would give us a special blessing on our 45th. To our surprise, we were called up to the altar after Mass, and he renewed our vows in front of the entire congregation.

Since then, the priest has done this for other couples. Some dress up and wear corsages. Pews are reserved for family and friends. What a beautiful tradition he has started. The congregation is happy to be included in this wonderful event. There is no cost involved. Afterward couples can have a small reception in their homes.

—BOB AND KAREN IN EAST MOLINE, ILL.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have survived a lot in our marriage, and are each other's best friend and soul mate. When we decided to renew our vows, we found a good deal on a three-day trip to Las Vegas last April, and had the ceremony at an Elvis chapel there. Please tell Steve that if his wife liked Elvis, having an impersonator officiate the ceremony, then sing and escort your "bride" is an awesome way to do it. Our four kids still laugh and dance to our DVD copy almost a year later.

Airlines and hotels always have deals for going to Vegas, and since you are married already, no license or minister is necessary. Silly as it sounds, it's a great time your wife will never forget.

—LORIANN IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR ABBY: For their 50th anniversary, my siblings and I decided to give our parents the big wedding they never had. Their sacrifice, love and spiritual guidance have shown us how to live wonderful lives. We gave them the party we could afford. The happiness on their faces that day will warm our hearts forever. Dad still asks, "How much did it cost?" to which I kiddingly respond, "That's none of your business!"

—HAPPY IN TEXAS

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Timberlake donates \$200,000 in Memphis



MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Justin Timberlake has made two separate donations of \$100,000 each to the Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum and the Memphis Music Foundation.

The 27-year-old area native, who was in Memphis for filming on the independent movie "The Open Road," presented the checks to the two groups last week at the museum.

Timberlake, who grew up in the Memphis suburb of Millington, became a star as part of the boy band 'N Sync. He has since become a best-selling solo artist. He also has appeared in the films "Alpha Dog" and "Black Snake Moan" and voiced a character in "Shrek the Third."

Timberlake said he donated the money because music education and keeping Memphis' music legacy vibrant are important to him.

Justin Timberlake poses backstage at the MTV Video Music Awards in this Sept. 9, 2007, file photo in Las Vegas. AP

Smashing Pumpkins sue Virgin Records

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Smashing Pumpkins are suing Virgin Records, saying the record label has illegally used their name and music in promotional deals that hurt the band's credibility with fans.

In a breach-of-contract lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court on Monday, the rockers said they have "worked hard for over two decades to accumulate a considerable amount of goodwill in the eyes of the public,"

and that Virgin's use of the band in a "Pepsi Stuff" promotion with Amazon.com and Pepsi Co. threatens their reputation for "artistic integrity."

Virgin released the Smashing Pumpkins' music for more than 17 years, but the only active agreement between the two parties, the lawsuit claims, is a deal granting Virgin permission to sell digital downloads of the band's songs. The agreement does not give Virgin the right

to use the band in promotional campaigns to sell outside products, the lawsuit said.

The band members said they would "never grant such authority to Virgin, or any other entity."

An after-hours call to Virgin Records wasn't immediately returned.

The lawsuit demands that Virgin pay with the profits earned in the promotion and asks for an injunction against using the Pumpkins' name or music in the future.

Rock Honors: The Who, and only The Who

NEW YORK (AP)—VH1 holds The Who in such high regard that the rock group is the only act being honored at its upcoming Rock Honors.

Now in its third year, the Rock Honors typically celebrate a handful of momentous rock groups and artists: previous honorees have included ZZ Top, Genesis, Kiss and Queen.

But this year, only the Who will be celebrated during the two-hour broadcast, to be taped

July 12 in Los Angeles and aired on the network July 17. The group, which now consists of surviving members Roger Daltrey and Pete Townshend, is due to perform along with other acts who will pay tribute to the legendary band.

"The Who defined the rock era. Their music truly pushed boundaries, connected with millions of rock fans and inspired countless bands to fulfill their own musical destinies," said Tom Calderone,

VH1's executive vice president and general manager.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Famers came to prominence in the 1960s with hits like "The Kids Are Alright," "My Generation," and created the groundbreaking rock opera "Tommy."

Drummer Keith Moon died of an overdose of prescription drugs in 1978, and bass guitarist John Entwistle was found dead of a heart attack in a Las Vegas hotel room in 2002.

Pegg plays Scotty in 'Star Trek' movie

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Simon Pegg won't be beaming up any differences for his take on starship Enterprise's chief engineer "Scotty" in the upcoming "Star Trek" film.

"I am playing 'Scotty,' but James Doohan is 'Scotty,'" Pegg told The Associated Press at the "Run Fatboy Run" premiere afterparty at Les Deux nightclub Monday night.

Doohan played "Scotty" in the '60s TV series and in several movies.

"I tried to approach the role like he did. He's a Scottish engineer who works in outer-space. He's a bit of a brawler. I didn't try to facilitate change," the 38-year-old British actor said.

In "Run Fatboy Run," which opens Friday, Pegg wears shorts as an fumbling Londoner who begins training for a marathon to impress his ex.

He's more coy about what his Montgomery "Scotty" Scott will look like in the J.J. Abrams-directed "Star Trek," expected on the big screen next year.

"I couldn't possibly tell you what I wear in 'Star Trek,'" Pegg said.

Pegg said he finished shooting the film, which stars Chris Pine as Capt. James T. Kirk and Zachary Quinto as Spock, last week. Pegg said he's signed up to star in three potential "Trek" movies.



Pegg

Pastimes

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By Jim Davis



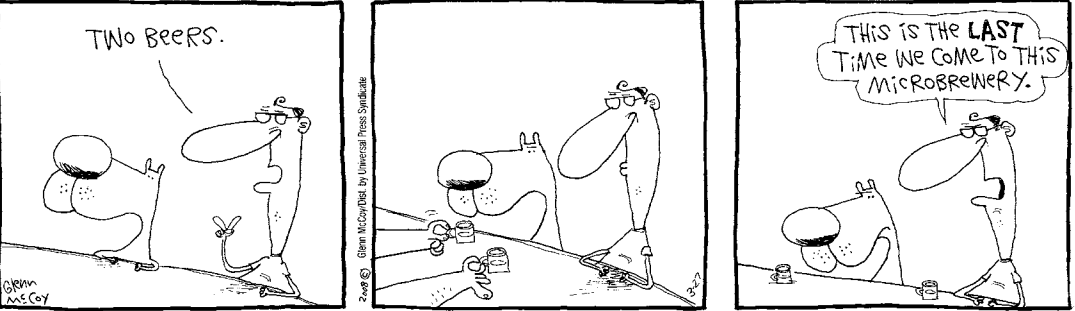
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Periodicals, for short

5 Ninny

8 Whip

12 Baghdad's land

13 Feathery accessory

14 Skilled

15 Stead

16 Baltimore news-paper

17 Autocrat

18 Deli request

20 Mourn

22 Author Deighton

23 Hostel

24 False god

27 Trucker in a union

32 Priestly vestment

33 Mischief, old style

34 Pitching stat

35 Former stars

38 Clarinet insert

39 Gear tooth

40 Work with

42 T-bar, e.g.

45 Infant's jumpsuit

49 Corned beef —

50 Staff

52 Greek vowel

53 Differently

54 Puncturing tool

55 Metal refuse

56 Cherished

57 Thick-ness

58 Shoe bottom

DOWN

1 Wire measures

2 Pavarotti rendition

3 Isle of Man dweller

4 Sudden storm

5 Liqueur made with worm-wood

6 Old French coin

7 Trilled

8 Central Americans, e.g.

9 Missing voter?

10 Czech or Croat

11 Roll-call reply

19 Yours truly

21 Edge

24 "Hum-bug!"

25 Carte lead-in

26 Ordinate crosser

28 Very long time

29 In a foolish way

30 Before

31 "Awe-some!"

36 Annoy

37 Id counter-part

38 Lax

41 Therefore

42 Lose feathers

43 Hardy cabbage

44 Enfold

46 Equestrian sport

47 List-ending abbr.

48 Anger

51 Pussy-cat's partner

Solution time: 25 mins.

VERB AND SHED
ODOR LEO HIVE
WIDE OPEN ODIN
STEAD GA VELS
SEAT PEA
EAST VOLE WAG
SKI HEROD ACE
PAD ORSO BYTE
EMU OPIE
FEDORA CHAMP
LEIS BIDEAWEE
ELSE LOU VOTE
ASHY END ELAN

Yesterday's answer 3-27

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mariah Carey, 38; Quentin Tarantino, 45; Xuxa, 45; Michael York, 66

Happy Birthday: Take a look at your financial situation and you will discover you may have some hidden assets or a skill that can help you turn a prosperous corner. This can be a great year if you are diligent and you stick to what you do best. Keep things simple, to the point and under control. With the added discipline you possess this year, you can push forward. Your numbers are 10, 17, 25, 36, 44, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Learning something new will help you get ahead but staying in the same position, being overworked and underpaid, will lead to discontent. It's time to start planning your way to better times.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stop pondering over what you should and shouldn't be doing. Travel for business purposes or learn a useful skill that will contribute to your future financial position. Network all you can.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Exaggeration or being dishonest will be your downfall. An old debt will be repaid if you put in a friendly reminder. An emotional matter may stifle your fun if you don't deal with what's going on immediately.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Aggressive action will pay off as long as you stay within your budget and boundary. Work on your own and you will accomplish more. A

responsible approach to whatever you do will be repaid two-fold. Do what you do best.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Travel will entice you. A romantic encounter will cost more than you can afford. A different way of doing things will capture your attention if you get involved with people from different backgrounds. A little of this and that mixed together will work for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's up to you to make some personal changes if you want to alter your life goals. You are likely to miss an opportunity if you start an argument with someone who's in competition with you. Love is looking positive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't do things on a big scale. Keep things small and simple and you will get the most for the least. If someone offers you something that sounds too good to be true, take a pass. Use your own imagination.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Working from home will lead to some emotional ups and downs but, if you stay on track, you will benefit from the comments made and the questions asked. Changes to your living arrangements will pay off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take on whatever challenge is thrown your way and you will gain confidence and popularity. A sudden change in your financial situation looks positive. Don't let anger get you down—make changes instead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let any-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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one talk you into doing or donating to his or her cause. Be careful where and how you spend your money. Someone will be all too eager to help you spend on the wrong things. Love shouldn't cost you financially.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take a moment to reevaluate your current position before making changes. You may be sitting in a better position than you realize. It takes a big person to admit errors and to stand up and try again. Be big, not defeated.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't give in to someone who won't compromise. You will make poor choices if you let your heart rule your head. You are better off making a move that will rid you of the turmoil someone else is causing you.

Birthday Baby: You've got pizzazz and poise and can be extremely persuasive. You are an opportunist, a storyteller, a leader and an attention grabber.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
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42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49					50	51			52			
53					54				55			
56					57				58			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

8	9						2	6
5								9
			3		8			
		6	9		7	1		
					8			
		3	4		2	7		
			5		6			
1								3
4	6						1	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	2	5	8	9	1	7	4	3
9	7	3	4	2	6	5	8	1
4	8	1	5	7	3	2	9	6
7	6	9	3	5	8	1	2	4
1	5	4	2	6	7	9	3	8
8	3	2	1	4	9	6	7	5
5	4	8	9	1	2	3	6	7
3	9	7	6	8	5	4	1	2
2	1	6	7	3	4	8	5	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/27

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LOST LUGGAGE Solution: 9 letters

L E E U L A V E S A C T I U S
E T E X M C Y T I R U C E S T
S A S I P C N A C S O L V E U
U C O M P E N S A T I O N S F
O O L E M S N E T T O G R O F
R L C U N S S S T O L E N Y E
A E C E M O S R E H T O B G C
C O G E A R G P N S N T R O N
D A G N L I A U C E R H E L A
E I N C E E I S I N U G P O T
L R I D E S T I N A T I O N S
A L D E A A S D A L E L R H I
Y I O N T T g A P P R F T C S
E N C U E T a L P K C A P E S
D E S W A I t N A D N E T T A

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Accessories, Airline, Assistance, Attendant, Bothersome, Carousel, Close, Coding, Compensations, Data, Delayed, Destination, Documents, Expenses, Flight, Forgotten, Gear, Gone, Late, Locate, Nuisance, Pack, Panic, Passenger, Plane, Report, Return, Scan, Security, Solve, Status, Stolen, Stuff, Suitcase, Tags, Technology, Value, Wait

Yesterday's Answer: Whimsical

WONDERWORD offers the "Book of Celebrities," for \$5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus \$3 postage for the first book order, \$1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6888. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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provided housing; self provided
food; workers compensation &
medical payments provided. Con-
tact: Joven A. Mallari dba J.A.M.
Construction Co., @287-5916.

1 ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
(THS 0048)
Salary:\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Em-
ployers provided workers com-
pensation & medical expenses.
Contact: Servino & Associates Inc.
dba Advanced Engineering Consult
Co., @235-5073.

1 INTERNAL AUDITOR
(THS 0049)
Salary:\$900.00-\$2,000.00/month-
ly. Benefits: Workmen's com-
pensation & medical provided.
Contact: Dynamic Core Group,
Inc. dba Shirley's Coffee Shop
@235-5379/80.

6 COOK (THS 0050)
Salary:\$3.55-\$3.75/hour. Ben-
efits: Workmen's compensation &
medical provided. Contact: Dynamic
Core Group, Inc. dba Shirley's Cof-
fee Shop @235-5379/80.

WHATZIT Solution:
An improper suggestion

1 SCUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR
(THS 0051)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medi-
cal expense & workers compensa-
tion employer provided. Contact:
Luana Inc. @233-2434.

1 COOK (THS 0052)
Salary:\$3.05-\$3.55/hour. Benefits:
Workers compensation & medical
expenses company provided. Con-
tact: Grotto Inc. @287-3303.

1 GENERAL MANAGER
(THS 0053)
Salary:\$700.00-\$1,300.00/monthly.
Workers compensation & medi-
cal expenses company provided.
Contact: Wild Boar of America Inc.
@322-5801.

1 POWER PLANT MECHANIC
(TTH 0043)
Salary:\$3.55-\$6.25/hour. Benefits:
Self arranged housing; self provided
food; company provided medical &
worker's compensation insurance.
Contact: Pacific Marine & Industrial
Corporation @322-6181.

1 POWERHOUSE MECHANIC
(TTH 0044)
Salary:\$3.55-\$5.12/hour. Benefits:
Self arranged housing; self provided
food; company provided medical &
worker's compensation insurance.
Contact: Pacific Marine & Industrial
Corporation @322-6181.

1 AUTO MECHANIC (THS 0054)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medi-
cal expense & workman compensa-

tion. Contact: Nicolas M. Solomon,
Jr. dba Advance Auto Center @
233-2288.

1 COOK (THS 0055)
Salary:\$4.25/hour. Benefits:\$100.00
food; medical expense & workman
compensation. Contact: Auntie

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Guard files sex harassment suit vs principal. PAGE 3
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There is still hope for nonimmigrant statu

joins Micronesia sum

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Succeeding positions	\$2.00

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to revise copy when necessary.

Chris Webber ends comeback, will retire



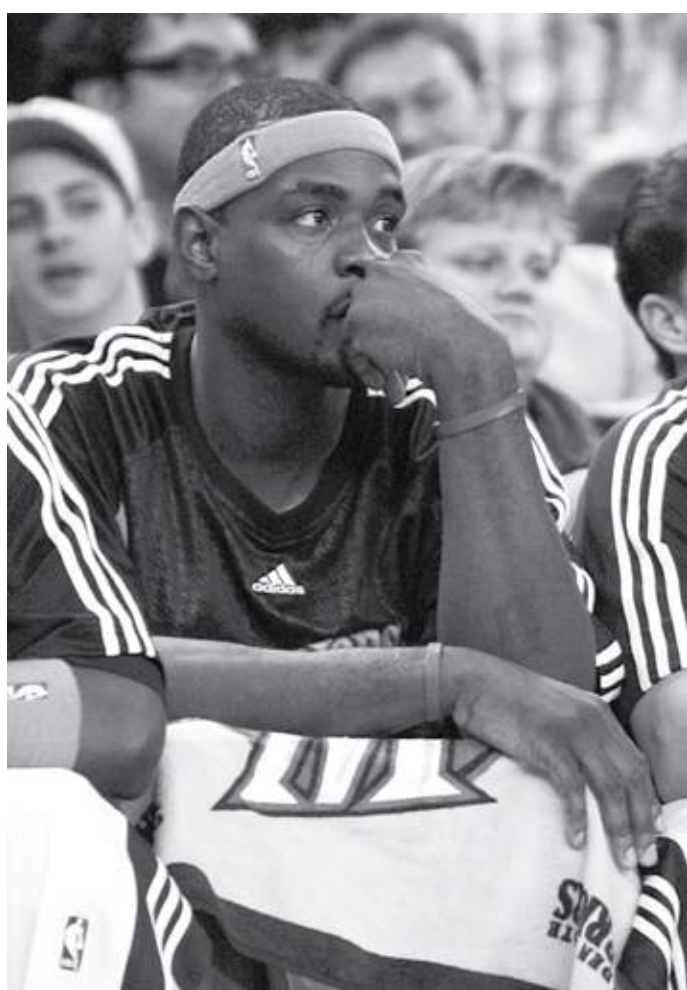
OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Chris Webber is ending his comeback attempt with the Golden State Warriors and will retire after 15 seasons in the NBA. Warriors spokesman Raymond Ridder said Webber will make the announcement at a news conference Wednesday. The news was first reported Tuesday by ESPN.com.

Webber played only nine games with the Warriors before being sidelined by a bum left knee that's hampered him in recent years.

Webber was the most prominent member of the Fab Five at Michigan and played for Golden State, Washington, Sacramento, Philadelphia and Detroit in his NBA career.

Webber and the Warriors hoped that a return to the spot he started his NBA career would help both parties. But he ended up having little impact on the Warriors after signing with the team Jan. 29.

Slowed by the knee injuries, Webber struggled to keep up with the fast-paced Warriors and averaged only 3.9 points per game in his brief stint with the team. He had not played since March 2 because of the injured left knee and had not been around the team as of late.



Golden State Warriors forward Chris Webber watches a basketball game against the Chicago Bulls in this Feb. 7, 2008 file photo, in Oakland, Calif.

The Warriors are in eighth-place in the Western Conference, a half-game ahead of

Denver for the final playoff spot. Even if Webber had been healthy enough to return, it

would have been unlikely there would have been enough time for him to work his way back into the rotation.

"It would be pretty hard at this point," coach Don Nelson said Monday. "You have to go through the process of getting his rhythm and a few airballs. All this is really hard on a head coach because any one of those things could cost you a game."

Webber's second stint with the Warriors came to a much quieter ending than his first, which ended with a feud with Nelson, a public trade demand and finally a deal to Washington.

Webber was acquired by the Warriors in a draft day trade with Orlando in 1993 after becoming just the second sophomore ever to be the top pick in the NBA draft. He won the Rookie of the Year award and made the playoffs in his only season in Golden State.

But he clashed with Nelson and demanded a trade before his second season, and was eventually dealt to Washington in November 1994 for Tom Gugliotta and three first-round picks.

"I probably should have explained myself better, but I'm happy with the way my career turned out," Webber said when he re-signed with the team. "I never would have got to play with Sac-

ramento or Washington on great teams. I never would have got to play for Coach again. I forgave a long time ago. Hopefully I've been forgiven a long time ago, and it's time to move on."

Webber had his greatest success in Sacramento, where he helped revive the Kings and turn them into one of the league's best teams. But they were unable to make it to the NBA Finals, losing in a seven-game series in the conference finals to the Los Angeles Lakers in 2002.

Webber's career began a downward slide after he underwent microfracture surgery on his knee the following year. He was dealt to Philadelphia in 2005 and spent the second half of last season in Detroit with his

hometown Pistons.

Webber was a five-time All-Star, who ended his career averaging 20.7 points, 9.8 rebounds and 4.2 assists a game.

Webber broke onto the scene as a part of Michigan's heralded recruiting class that arrived on campus in 1991. Teaming with Jalen Rose, Juwan Howard, Jimmy King and Ray Jackson, Webber helped the Wolverines make it to the NCAA championship his only two years in college.

But Michigan lost both times, to Duke in 1992 and North Carolina the following year. Webber was most remembered for calling a timeout when Michigan had none remaining in the final minute of the 1993 loss to the Tar Heels.

Donnie Walsh hasn't agreed to run Knicks

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Indiana Pacers insist Donnie Walsh has not agreed to oversee basketball operations for the New York Knicks after the season.

"Donnie said this morning there's nothing clear about his future," Pacers spokesman David Benner said Tuesday. "When there is he'll make a statement. He hasn't agreed to anything with anybody."

Walsh, the Pacers' chief executive and president since 1988, said Monday he would step aside after this season, but he would not comment on his future. The Pacers have turned over operation of the troubled franchise to Hall of Famer Larry Bird.

The Associated Press left a message with Walsh's office, but his secretary said he would not respond to the inquiries.

On Monday night, ESPN.com reported that Walsh will go to the Knicks. The Web site, citing an unidentified source, said he was expected to sign a three-year, \$15 million contract with the Knicks at the end of this season.

What would happen to embattled Knicks coach and team president Isiah Thomas once Walsh joined the Knicks was not known, ESPN.com reported.

Knicks spokesman Jonathan Supranowitz told the AP the team would not comment on the report.

"As far as what I'm going to

do, I'm not sure," the 67-year-old Walsh said at his news conference. "As a result, I'm not going to comment on it until I have a better idea."

In New York, Thomas wouldn't comment on speculation that Walsh could replace him, but praised his former boss with the Pacers.

"I don't comment on my job status and I'm sure not going to comment on anything that Donnie chooses to do or not do," Thomas said before the Knicks played Monday.

"He's had a great career, he's one of the best who's ever done it. I wish him great success and he's someone that I respect tremendously. He gave me my first coaching job and I truly do like him as a person and he's done a lot for the game."

Pacers co-owner Herb Simon said the announcement on Walsh's decision was made now rather than the end of the season because "everyone was getting confused."

"There were lots of rumors," he said. "Once I was convinced Donnie was really leaving, I thought it was best to let everyone else know."

Walsh mentioned the possibility of retirement several times last season, when the Pacers went 35-47 and missed the playoffs for the first time in a decade.

"I really don't think this should come as a surprise," he said. "I said this would be my last year,

and now I'm completing what has been my dream job."

Walsh, who joined the Pacers as an assistant coach in 1984, became general manager in 1986 and president two years later. He hired Bird as coach in 1997, and after Bird moved into the front office in 2003 three years later, Walsh groomed him as his eventual successor.

"My real reason is, I think I've been here too long," Walsh said. "It's not healthy for the franchise. 'I started thinking that the last two or three years. But you also want to see things get better.'"

As president of basketball operations, Bird has shared many of the day-to-day operations with Walsh in recent years, a division of authority that has often led to confusion in dealing with other teams, Walsh said.

"Now it's one voice; it's mine," Bird said. "Pressure is pressure. I've dealt with it in the past, and I'm looking forward to it."

The Pacers reached the Eastern Conference finals six times and won the Central Division four times under Walsh. They made the NBA finals in 2000, when they lost to the Los Angeles Lakers, and had the league's best record in 2004 before the franchise began unraveling.

"It was a joy to spend time in Indiana under his leadership. Great man and a great basketball mind," said Mark Jackson, who played on the Pacers' finals

team. "Sad to see, being a member of the Pacers and knowing what he means to that organization and that community, but at the same time I wish him nothing but the very best because like I said, he's a great man and a great basketball mind. He's the best in the business."

Starting with the brawl involving Indiana players and Detroit Pistons fans, the past three seasons have been marked by losses, personnel changes and off-court issues.

Former Pacer Stephen Jackson pleaded guilty to criminal recklessness for firing gunshots in the air during a 2006 fight at a strip club. This year, Pacers guard Jamaal Tinsley and several companions were targeted in a shooting that wounded the team's equipment manager outside a downtown hotel. And Tinsley and Marquis Daniels recently cut a deal with prosecutors to avoid trial on charges in a separate fight at a nightclub.

Recently, a murder suspect was arrested after he had been at the home of Pacers forward Shawne Williams and a rape was reported at Daniels' home. Neither player was charged and police said Daniels was not a suspect in the rape.

This season, Indiana has the NBA's worst attendance, and despite a four-game winning streak the Pacers (29-41) are still 1 1/2 games behind Atlanta for the eighth and final Eastern Conference playoff spot.

West scores 35 as Hornets beat Pacers

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—David West had 35 points and 16 rebounds, and the New Orleans Hornets beat Indiana 114-106 on Tuesday in the Pacers' first game since CEO Donnie Walsh announced he was leaving the team at the end of the season.

Chris Paul had 31 points and 14 assists as the Hornets won their fourth straight to maintain the best record (48-21) in the Western Conference.

Danny Granger led Indiana with 26 points and nine rebounds against his hometown team, which had a four-game winning streak end.

Spurs 107, Magic 97

At Orlando, Florida, Manu Ginobili scored 28 points and Michael Finley added 24 as San Antonio beat Orlando for its fourth straight win.

Dwight Howard had 24 points and 21 rebounds, his eighth game this season with at least 20 in both categories. Rashard Lewis added 24 points, Keyon Dooling 19 and Carlos Arroyo 17.

Tim Duncan had 19 points and 15 rebounds for San Antonio.

Mavericks 103, Clippers 90

At Dallas, Josh Howard took over a tight game midway through the third quarter, carrying Dallas in its first game since losing Dirk Nowitzki to injury.

Dallas, which had lost three straight, led only 60-58 when Howard got rolling. Howard scored 20 of the Mavericks' next 26 points, putting them up by 16 early in the fourth quarter. He finished with 32 points, easily his most since Jason Kidd arrived.

Corey Maggette scored 21 points before fouling out for the Clippers, who lost their eighth straight.

Bulls 103, Hawks 94

At Chicago, Drew Gooden scored a season-high 31 points and matched a season best with 16 rebounds as Chicago held on in the fourth quarter to beat Atlanta.

The Bulls, one of several teams chasing the Hawks for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, led by 12 after three quarters before Atlanta rallied within two with just more than six minutes left.

Josh Childress scored 22, including eight in the final quarter, to lead Atlanta.

Jazz 128, Bobcats 106

At Salt Lake City, Carlos Boozer had 28 points and 13 rebounds, and Deron Williams added 14 points and 15 assists to lead Utah past Charlotte.

Mehmet Okur also had a double-double for Utah with 20 points and 10 rebounds, and the Jazz pulled away after letting a 20-point lead slip to three early in the fourth quarter.

Jason Richardson scored 26 points and Gerald Wallace added 21 for the Bobcats, who lost their sixth straight road game.

Trail Blazers 102, Wizards 82

At Portland, Oregon, Martell Webster had 23 points, Travis Outlaw added 20 and Portland overcame the loss of top scorer Brandon Roy to beat Washington.

Jarrett Jack added 17 points and Joel Przybilla had 17 rebounds for the Blazers, who shot 49.4 percent despite Roy leaving with a strained right groin on the last play of the first quarter.

Caron Butler had 19 to lead Washington.

Ramirez lifts Sox, wild Dice-K over A's



TOKYO (AP)—Boston, Japan, it doesn't matter: Manny Ramirez strikes a winning pose for the Boston Red Sox. In the earliest major league opener, the Red Sox started their World Series title defense with a signature Manny moment.

Ramirez stood frozen in the batter's box, admiring his 10th-inning drive to center field off Huston Street, thinking it would be a three-run homer. Instead, the ball bounced off the wall for his second two-run double, good enough to lift the Red Sox over the Oakland Athletics 6-5 on Tuesday night.

Daisuke Matsuzaka excited fans at the start, and Ramirez at the finish.

"Ultimately, it was a great ballgame," Matsuzaka said through a translator. "I hope people got a chance to enjoy it live."

A crowd of 44,628, including fans from Boston, cheered at the Tokyo Dome, which hosted baseball's opener for the third time in nine years. It was 6:10 a.m. back in Boston when the season began, and organizers tried to make it feel like Fenway Park by playing "Sweet Caroline" after the last out.

Ramirez, starting the final guaranteed season of his eight-year contract, hit a tying, two-run double in the sixth inning, and rookie Brandon Moss hit an RBI single that gave Boston a 3-2 lead and chased Oakland starter Joe Blanton.

Matsuzaka, pitching in Japan for the first time since joining the Red Sox last season, left after five wild innings and 95 pitches, and Jack Hannahan's two-run homer off Kyle Snyder put Oakland ahead 4-3 in the sixth. Moss, play-



Boston Red Sox leftfielder Manny Ramirez watches the flight of his two-run double off Oakland Athletics' Huston Street in the 10th inning of their Major League Baseball regular season opener at Tokyo Dome in Tokyo, Japan, Tuesday, March 25, 2008.

ing because J.D. Drew hurt his back in batting practice, hit a solo homer in the ninth off Street (0-1).

Then, in the 10th, Julio Lugo reached on an infield single leading off, Dustin Pedroia sacrificed and David Ortiz was

intentionally walked with two outs.

Ramirez hit a drive to deep center and was sure it would be a home run. It wasn't, and he had to hustle to make it to second.

Just Manny being Manny.

He learned when he got to the ballpark that he couldn't use the red-barreled bat he planned on using because it would distract pitchers. So he got some new bats in Tokyo.

"Maybe if I used my American bat that ball maybe would have gone," he said. "I thought I hit it good. I couldn't use my bat because it wasn't legal. Thank God I got some Japanese wood that I could use."

Oakland manager Bob Geren made the key decision to walk Ortiz.

"They're both great hitters and you have to pick one or the other," Geren said. "He got 0-2 and then got a pitch over the plate and Ramirez took it deep."

Jonathan Papelbon took the mound to his "Wild Thing" theme in the bottom half, but was hardly intimidating. He walked Daric Barton leading off and gave up a one-out RBI double to Emil Brown, who was tagged out in a rundown between second and third.

"I made a mistake," Brown was quoted as saying by the San Francisco Chronicle. "What I was thinking didn't happen in that situation. You can't get out like that. It's not a trade-a-run situation. I thought the throw was going home, but that was a mistake. Bad baserunning on my part."

After a pair of singles, Kurt Suzuki hit a game-ending groundout, giving Papelbon the save and sealing the win for Hideki Okajima (1-0), who used to pitch in the Tokyo Dome for the Yomiuri Giants.

Matsuzaka allowed a pair of first-inning runs, one on a homer by Mark Ellis. The right-hander struck out six and

walked five in five innings but allowed only two hits.

The crowd was loud, but not nearly as loud as the regular noise level at Fenway. Fans pounded drums, flashed cameras and gawked at Dice-K's wildness.

"Given the opportunity to start on opening day, I did feel a little nervous and a little excited and that might have shown," said Matsuzaka, who signed a \$52 million, six-year contract with Boston before last season after eight years with the Seibu Lions. "I'd like to apologize to all the fans who turned out and wanted to see me go deep in the game."

The teams were set to play again Wednesday, with Oakland's Rich Harden pitching against Jon Lester.

Canseco links A-Rod to steroids dealer

NEW YORK (AP)—Jose Canseco says in his new book that he introduced Alex Rodriguez to a steroids distributor and that A-Rod pursued Canseco's wife, according to the Web site of freelance writer Joe Lavin.

Lavin says on the Web site that he obtained the book, "Vindicated: Big Names, Big Liars, and The Battle to Save Baseball," on Monday from a bookstore in Cambridge, Mass. The book is due to be released April 1.

Lavin writes Canseco's book discusses A-Rod, Roger Clemens and Magglio Ordonez.

He says Canseco claimed he didn't inject Rodriguez but "introduced Alex to a known supplier of steroids." Lavin also says "Canseco claims that A-Rod was trying to sleep with Canseco's wife."

"I really, absolutely, have no reaction," Rodriguez said Tuesday when asked about the claim relating to the steroids distributor. As far as the allegation regarding Canseco's wife, Rodriguez responded:

"I don't know how to answer that."

Canseco writes about the infamous June 1998 party at his house. Brian McNamee, Clemens' former trainer, has said Clemens spoke with Canseco at the barbecue and soon after approached the trainer about using performance-enhancing drugs. According to Lavin, Canseco wrote that Clemens did not attend.

Earlier this year, Canseco gave an affidavit to congressional investigators stating Clemens was not there and that he had never seen Clemens "use, possess or ask for steroids or human growth hormone."

Lavin wrote the Ordonez reference was "that old yarn of one player injecting another with steroids, possibly in the buttocks." Canseco and Ordonez were teammates on the 2001 Chicago White Sox.

The New York Times reported in January that Canseco offered to keep Ordonez "clear" in the book if the Detroit outfielder invested in a movie project promoted by Canseco, claims Lavin said Canseco wrote he denies.

Republican report questions whether Rocket lied

The Roger Clemens vs. Brian McNamee dispute over whether the seven-time Cy Young Award winner took performance-enhancing drugs has become a feud between Republicans and Democrats.

Reprising the partisan nature of last month's Clemens-McNamee congressional hearing, the leading Republican on that committee released a report Tuesday questioning some of the Democratic majority's conclusions about the investigation.

The 109-page report contains details Rep. Tom Davis believes could challenge the credibility of Brian McNamee, the personal trainer who testified under oath he injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone from 1998-01.

Minority staff from the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will pass along additional information to the Justice Department. The FBI is investigating whether Clemens testified truthfully to Congress.

"Did Roger Clemens lie to us?" Davis said in a release accompanying the report.

"Some of the evidence seems to say he did; other information suggests he told the truth," the Virginia Republican said. "It's a far more complicated picture than some may want to believe. Memories fade and recollections differ. That's human nature, not criminal conduct."

The report does not take issue with the basis for the criminal referral—the core matter of whether Clemens lied to Congress about taking performance-enhancers. But it does question McNamee's ver-

sions of events on several points.

It includes portions of previously undisclosed interviews with new witnesses and addresses issues such as whether Clemens attended a party at then-teammate Jose Canseco's house in 1998; information about injections of vitamin B-12; and whether Clemens developed an abscess on his buttocks.

The report—"Weighing the Committee Record: A Balanced Review of the Evidence Regarding Performance Enhancing Drugs in Baseball"—stands as a counterpoint to the 18-page memo compiled by majority staff and released by chairman Rep. Henry Waxman, a California Democrat, on Feb. 27.

That was the day Waxman and Davis jointly asked Attorney General Michael Mukasey to open an investigation into whether Clemens committed perjury in his statements at a Feb. 5 deposition or the Feb. 13 hearing. There was no criminal referral of McNamee.

"We believe the Democratic memorandum does not fully represent the investigative work of the committee or the evidentiary record," Tuesday's report said.

Clemens' lead lawyer, Rusty Hardin, called the Republicans' findings "a welcome attempt to balance the scales a little bit."

"I'm glad that somebody has independently looked at it and said, 'There's another side to this story that did not come through in the majority report,'" Hardin said. "Waxman's attempt to channel this to one conclusion and one conclusion only has been shameful, quite frankly."

The report criticizes Democrats for taking witnesses' quotations out of context, for going "far afield into Clemens's recollections about inconsequential matters," and for waiting until "63 minutes before the committee hearing" to let Republicans know about a medical expert the majority had contacted.

During that hearing, McNamee repeated his accusations, while Clemens repeated his denials—under oath and under questioning from lawmakers that often broke down along party lines. Democrats were tougher on Clemens; Republicans gave McNamee a harder time.

"Clemens and McNamee told two spectacularly conflicting stories. The differing testimony leads to an obvious conclusion - one committed perjury and made materially false statements to Congress. Both are serious crimes. The ultimate question for the Justice Department is whether Clemens knowingly provided materially false testimony about using anabolic steroids and human growth hormone," the Republican report read. "If Clemens is not lying on that subject, McNamee is."

Waxman's Feb. 27 memo outlined the reasons for the criminal referral, summarizing "seven sets of assertions made by Mr. Clemens in his testimony that appear to be contradicted by other evidence before the committee or implausible."

Those areas involve Clemens' testimony that he has "never taken steroids or HGH"; that McNamee injected him with the painkiller lidocaine; that team trainers gave him pain injections; that he received many vitamin B-12 injections; that he never discussed HGH with

McNamee; that he was not at Canseco's home from June 8-10, 1998, when their Toronto Blue Jays played a series at the Florida Marlins; and that he was "never told" about baseball investigator George Mitchell's request to speak to Clemens before issuing the report containing McNamee's allegations.

"The Democratic staff memorandum's characterizations and conclusions regarding these other matters is simply not relevant to the core question of whether Clemens knowingly lied about using anabolic steroids and human growth hormone," Tuesday's report said.

It continued: "More concerning, however, the Democratic memorandum reads like an advocate's brief or prosecutorial indictment of Roger Clemens."

The report includes new witnesses, including three who say Clemens was not at Canseco's 1998 party. In the Mitchell Report, McNamee said he saw Clemens and Canseco speaking at that party—and that shortly thereafter Clemens first approached the trainer about using performance-enhancing drugs.

One of McNamee's lawyers, Richard Emery, called the Republican report "an obvious attempt to spin" and "a surprising, partisan flailing action that says little or nothing about the core issue of Roger's use of steroids and HGH and nitpicks a lot of collateral issues in the vein of what occurred at the hearing."

"It continues to make me suspect that this kind of Republican investment in attempting to support Roger and undermine Brian is coming from somewhere else, namely the Bushes," Emery said. (AP)

Hustlers pulling away in billiards league

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



The SaipanCell-Krystal Perfect Spot Hustlers are slowly distancing themselves from the pack as the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League enters the final five weeks of competition.

The Hustlers, backed by SaipanCell Communications and Krystal Perfect Spot Bar, dominated the visiting Wild Bill's Wild Wild West in pulling off a 7-0 shutout win Tuesday night at their home bar in Chalan Kanoa.

It was the second straight shutout win for the Hustlers to improve their record to a league-best 60-10 mark and enjoy a 14-game lead over closest pursuer Porky's Extremists, 46-24, which is currently in a tight battle for second place with Jonny's Destroyers (44-26).

Len's 5 Bad Boyz, Porky's Wild Hogs, and Coral Reef Shark Attack are tied from fourth to sixth spots with similar 41-29 slates followed by Mr. Wonderful Shooters (40-30), USSP Fotten Palau (38-32), and Wild Wild West (37-33).

Wild Bill's Snipers lead the lower half of the standings with a 30-40 mark followed by USSP Wat-Ever's and Godfather's Magas' identical 28-42 cards. Len's 5 Amigos (26-44), Perfect Spotter (25-45), Coral Reef Barracuda



Members of Godfather's Magas pose for a group photo before their game against SaipanCell Hustlers in the Budweiser-SBA Open 8-Ball League last week.

(18-52), and VFW Warriors (17-53) round out the standings.

But don't let the score fool you as the Hustlers had their work cut out for them against the Wild Wild West as four of the seven games were decided on tiebreaks.

The Hustlers' Erwin Gomez, Rowell Mariano, Senen Pangilinan, and Robert Sanciango were forced to deciding matches by their opponents but came out victorious after getting the needed breaks to complete the shutout.

Coral Reef's Shark Attack went hunting on Tuesday and gobbled up the Destroyers in a 6-1 mauling. The loss dropped the Destroyers to third, while a 4-3 win by the Extremists brought them back to second place.

In other matches, Len's 5 Amigos and Godfather's Magas both scored similar 6-1 decisions against VFW Warriors and Coral Reef Barracuda, respectively, while Len's 5 Bad Boyz dispatched USSP Fotten Palau, 5-2.

Mr. Wonderful Shooters and Porky's Wild Hogs scored consecutive 4-3 wins over Krystal Perfect Spotters and Wild Bill's Snipers.

Pacific Amusement, the same company that runs the leagues of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association, organizes the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League.

For more information about the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League and the SEDA leagues, contact league secretary Charlotte Tenepere at 233-4397.

OL'ACES

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The Dolphins, meanwhile, relied on the heroics of Jonah Pangelinan and Roque Camacho in pulling off a 9-7 decision against the Tan Holdings Athletics.

INDOOR

From Page 28

the league.

The No Fear-Fanians match is set at 7:30pm after the YoYo's-Pikan Gaga game at 6:30pm.

In the women's division, YoYo's earned the first finals berth not Pikan Gaga in an earlier report. YoYo's scored a hard-earned 25-16, 22-25, 15-10 win over the league-leading Pikan Gaga on Monday.

Pikan Gaga met with the Beach Jam-

Pangelinan went 2-for-3 scoring two runs and also pitched two scoreless innings with no hits, three strikeouts, and five walks. Camacho, who gave up one hit, had two strikeouts, and seven walks relieved him.

Frank Blas closed out for the Dolphins and was tagged with two earned runs on one hit with eight strikeouts

mers yesterday for the right to face YoYo's in the finals at stake.

The Beach Jammers earned the right of facing Pikan Gaga after a 25-21, 25-27, 15-13 triumph over Seikid.

But their luck ran out when they suffered a straight sets 11-25, 17-25 loss to Pikan Gaga, which topped the elimination with a league-best 11-1 card. Pikan Gaga's lone loss was against YoYo's on Feb. 28 that ended their eight-game winning run. YoYo's had the second-best record with an 8-4 slate.

In other news, the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association are ad-

and three walks.

Camacho also went 2-for-3 with a double, one run, and two RBIs, while lead off batter Josh Trinidad went 1-for-3 with a two-RBI inside-the-park homer.

The SaipanCell Patriots were playing the Wells Fargo-As Matuis Twins at press time with the defending champions batting in the bottom of the first.

vising interested teams to prepare for the 2008 Jam Attack, which runs from April 4 to 6.

For more information, get in touch with Elias Rangamar and Janice Camacho during the finals to get entry forms and more details.

On April 10, the Pacific Trading Co.-Pacific Islands Club Spring Beach Volleyball League begins with an opening banquet at the PIC sand courts in San Antonio.

This will be the random draw format. Please contact John Waechter at PIC for more details.

ACTION

From Page 28

In other results, KES whipped Whispering Palms School, 25-13, 25-14 in the 12-and-under boys division, while the WPS girls' Under-12 team downed Bwii Bwiis, 25-15, 25-20.

Bwii Bwiis bounced back in the girls' 12-and-under when they pounded Mini Marshmallows, 25-11, 25-4.

The HJHS Under-14 girls defeated Bwii Bwiis, 25-9, 25-17, with UR Mom dominating Mini Marshmallows, 25-1,

25-13. In the girls' 18-and-under, GWF scored a hard-earned 25-223, 25-21 win over Saipan Southern High School while KHS beat Tinian, 25-19, 25-14

Matches in the boys' 18-and-under saw Brotherhood winning its two games against the Kings, 25-19, 25-23, and Pwng, 25-12, 25-16. The Kings came back with a 25-21, 25-17 triumph over KHS, while Pwng scored a 25-18, 25-18 decision against Tinian to ease the pain of its loss against Brotherhood.

KHS bested Kontenders, 25-18, 25-22, in the 18-and-under boys, while Tinian tripped GWF, 25-21, 27-25, in

the girls side.

Hilitai and Okies drew their match as both team won one set each. Okies won the first set, 25-12, while Hilitai rebounded with a 26-24 decision in the second frame.

Twenty-six teams divided into three age divisions in the boys and girls class will be fighting for the titles in the four-day tournament, which ends on March 28.

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association is organizing the tournament in cooperation with the Division of Youth Services and Division of Sports and Recreation.

to the community. Trench Tech's involvement with the youth whether educating the kids about [MMA]."

Alvarez, in another interview, said he met with all the kids and explained to them about the difference of MMA and fighting in schools, which he strongly disapproves.

He added his visit to different

schools is one of Trench Tech's ways of giving back to the community for their continued support. "We are always interested in helping schools that will invite us."

Alvarez said they were also supposed to go at Marianas High School in November last year but the visit was cancelled since they were in the



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	55	15	.786	—
Philadelphia	36	35	.507	19 1/2
Toronto	35	35	.500	20
New Jersey	30	41	.423	25 1/2
New York	19	51	.271	36

Southeast Division

x-Orlando	46	27	.630	—
Washington	36	34	.514	8 1/2
Atlanta	30	40	.429	14 1/2
Charlotte	25	45	.357	19 1/2
Miami	13	57	.186	31 1/2

Central Division

x-Detroit	50	20	.714	—
Cleveland	40	31	.563	10 1/2
Indiana	29	42	.408	21 1/2
Chicago	28	42	.400	22
Milwaukee	24	45	.348	25 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	48	21	.696	—
Houston	48	23	.676	1
San Antonio	48	23	.676	1
Dallas	45	26	.634	4
Memphis	18	52	.257	30 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	47	25	.653	—
Denver	43	28	.606	3 1/2
Portland	38	34	.528	9
Minnesota	18	51	.261	27 1/2
Seattle	17	54	.239	29 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	49	22	.690	—
Phoenix	47	23	.671	1 1/2
Golden State	43	27	.614	5 1/2
Sacramento	31	39	.443	17 1/2
L.A. Clippers	21	49	.304	27 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

San Antonio 107, Orlando 97
New Orleans 114, Indiana 106
Chicago 103, Atlanta 94
Dallas 103, L.A. Clippers 90
Utah 128, Charlotte 106
Portland 102, Washington 82

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, Clev.	65	709	485	2004	30.8
Bryant, LAL	71	680	530	2008	28.3
Iverson, Den.	71	620	571	1892	26.6
Anthony, Den.	66	616	403	1682	25.5
Stoudemire, Phoe.	67	594	462	1655	24.7
Wade, Mia.	51	439	354	1254	24.6
Nowitzki, Dall.	69	556	448	1625	23.6
Redd, Mil.	59	457	355	1377	23.3
Jefferson, N.J.	71	537	495	1636	23.0
Martin, Sac.	52	348	406	1195	23.0
Maggette, LAC	59	392	471	1319	22.4
Davis, G.S.	70	564	282	1559	22.3
Bosh, Tor.	55	412	394	1222	22.2
Jamison, Wash.	69	551	294	1502	21.8
McGrady, Hou.	56	468	205	1219	21.8
J. Johnson, Atl.	69	535	276	1491	21.6
Paul, N.O.	66	540	262	1420	21.5
Boozer, Utah	70	620	265	1505	21.5
Howard, Orl.	72	521	480	1522	21.1
Jefferson, Minn.	69	608	237	1453	21.1

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Biedrins, G.S.	273	439	.622
Chandler, N.O.	304	508	.598
Howard, Orl.	521	871	.598

O'Neal, Phoe.	269	457	.589
Childress, Atl.	268	457	.586
Stoudemire, Phoe.	594	1020	.582
Smith, Minn.	273	479	.570
Lee, N.Y.	281	500	.562
Brewer, Utah	316	575	.550
Curry, N.Y.	297	544	.546

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, Orl.	72	255	782	1037	14.4
Camby, Den.	68	205	716	921	13.5
Kaman, LAC	52	170	511	681	13.1
Chandler, N.O.	65	279	520	799	12.3
Jefferson, Minn.	69	276	521	797	11.6
Duncan, S.A.	66	208	549	757	11.5
Okafor, Char.	69	230	520	750	10.9
Boozer, Utah	70	175	575	750	10.7
Odom, LAL	66	172	529	701	10.6
Jamison, Wash.	69	195	520	715	10.4

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, Phoe.	69	774	11.2
Paul, N.O.	66	739	11.2
Williams, Utah	71	733	10.3
Kidd, Dall.	68	688	10.1
Calderon, Tor.	70	590	8.4
Davis, G.S.	70	546	7.8
James, Clev.	65	477	7.3
Iverson, Den.	71	515	7.3
Felton, Char.	66	465	7.0
Billups, Det.	67	470	7.0

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

Little League Standings

Major League

Red Sox	5	0
Ol'Aces	4	0
Dragons	4	1
Survivors	4	1
Patriots	3	1
Twins	3	1
Hustlers I	3	1
Dolphins	3	2
Braves	2	2
Athletics	1	3
Hustlers II	1	4
McDonald's	1	3
Dare JPO's	1	3
Lions	0	4
Pirates	0	4
Suns	0	5

Senior League

Jets	3	0
Dolphins	3	2
Fielders	1	1
D9ers	0	1
Liong King	0	3

Big League

Jets	3	0
Hustlers	1	0
Falcons	1	2
Aztecs	0	1
Dolphins	0	2

SBA 8-Ball Standing

SaipanCell Hustlers	53	10
Jonny's Destroyers	43	20
Porky's Extremists	42	21
Wild Wild West	37	26
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According to information provided by Alvarez's wife, Mari Palacios, her husband talked to the students and discouraged any type of fighting in schools. "It's always awesome to share

Philippines for Frank "The Crank" Camacho's title defense against Caloy "Bad Boy" Baduria, which the former eventually lost.

"We spread and shared the news about MMA. Educating the kids and public what MMA is all about and keeps the fight inside the cage. We want to educate and enlighten the people on

what martial arts is all about."

Alvarez said they are trying their best to spread the positive side of MMA. "We are more than a bunch of tough guys inside the cage. MMA is more than fighting but also teaches discipline and determination, which is present in every form of martial arts."

Japanese Jr. national swimmers train with Tsunami Saipan

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Three members of the Japanese Junior National Swimming Team were recently on island and trained with the standouts of the Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said Sachiyo Noshita, Sayuna Sugiyama, and Yayoi Matsumoto spend two weeks on Saipan before leaving for the Land of the Rising Sun last Monday, March 24.

All three are members of the Shizuoka Swimming Federation. Noshita, 14, is the 2007 Junior Olympic champion in Japan, while 15-year-old Sugiyama is a Junior National Record

holder in their country. Matsumoto is the oldest at 17 years old and is the 2007 Japanese high school champion.

Kimura added that all three Japan Junior National Swimming Team members stayed at the Marianas Resort and Spa along with their coaches. Noshita, Sugiyama, and Matsumoto trained at least thrice a day with some practices lasting two and a half hours.

"It was so exciting to have them swim with our very own swimmers from Tsunami Saipan because all three girls are candidates for the 2008 Beijing Olympics or the 2012 London Olympics. It is sure they will go to the Olympics as representatives of Japan someday.

The Tsunami Saipan coach

said Noshita, Sugiyama, and Matsumoto seemed to have developed a liking for Saipan after also coming here late last year. Kimura said it is very possible that the island would become an annual training venue for them.

"They also have been here last December to practice. They love Saipan very much and hope to come back again."

Tsunami Saipan swimmers that trained with the future Japanese Olympians were local club's mainstays Marystar Welch, Rezne Wong, and brothers Kensuke and Shin Kimura.

In other news, Tsunami Saipan announced that the April session for beginner Red Cross lessons at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan have all been filed up. The next session of beginner swim lessons is set for the summer.



Tsunami Saipan swimmers and Japanese Jr. national swimmers practice at the Marpi pool.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Rezne Wong, right, challenges the lady swimmers of the Japanese Jr. national team while an unidentified person records the race.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



From left, Tsunami Saipan's Marystar Welch, Rezne Wong, Kensuke and Shin Kimura, pose with Japanese Jr. national swimmers Yayoi Matsumoto and Sachiyo Noshita.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Japan Jr. National Swimming Team members, three left, pose with Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmers at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool while toying with Kensuke Kimura.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Sayuna Sugiyama and Kensuke Kimura are all smiles after training.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Sachiyo Noshita and Kensuke Kimura strike a pose.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Tsunami Saipan swimmers and Japanese Jr. national swimmers are just about to start their backstroke laps together at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Japanese Jr. national swimmers train with Tsunami Saipan



Three members of the Japanese Junior National Swimming Team were recently on island and trained with the standouts of the Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi. **27**

Saipan Tribune Sports



Chris Webber ends comeback, will retire

Chris Webber is ending his comeback attempt with the Golden State Warriors and will retire after 15 seasons in the NBA. **24**

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Ol'Aces and Dolphins beat foes

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Happy Market/L&Y Corp. Ol'Aces and PTI Dolphins edged out their opponents in the Major division of the Saipan Little League in a couple of continued games last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The games were originally scheduled on Feb. 16 and 23 but Saipan Little League officials stopped the matches due to darkness.

Jared Lizama pitched 2.9 innings in relief to lead the Happy Market and L&Y Corp.-backed Ol'Aces to a 10-8 win over Team McDonald's.

It was Ol'Aces' fifth straight win to join the vastly improved Bank of Saipan Red Sox on top of the 16-team field.

Lizama held McDonald's to three earned runs on five hits with four strikeouts and one walk in pitching two scoreless innings.

He relieved Lancaster Secharmidal, who lasted 3.1 innings on the mound giving up eight earned runs on 10 hits with six strikeouts, and one walk.

Keola Camacho went 1-for-3 but had a two-RBI inside-the-park home run that highlighted Ol'Aces' six-run third inning scoring barrage.

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A Team McDonald's runner heads to third base in this file photo taken in one of their games in this year's season of the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

JON PEREZ



Indoor V-ball finals set today

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The 2008 Indoor Volleyball Winter League is set to end today after a two-month run when the two finalists in the men's and women's divisions clash for the title at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

No Fear and YoYo's earned the first finals berth after beating separate opponents in yesterday's playoffs.

No Fear earned the first finals slot in the men's side after a three-set 25-23, 24-26, 15-6 win over Ol'Aces. They will face Fanians in the finals after they defeated Ol'Aces, 25-

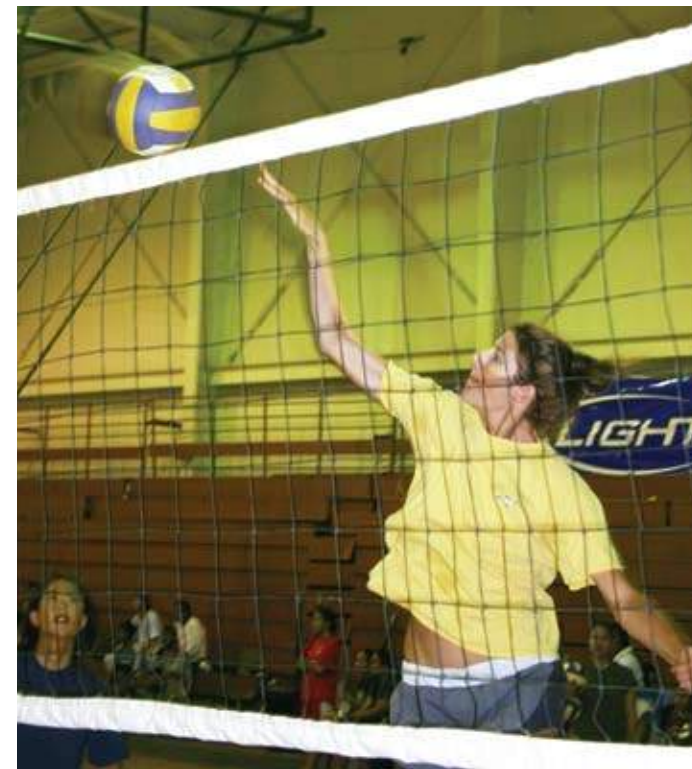
14, 25-21.

No Fear finished second behind pennant winner Menudo in the standings as they ended the regular season with an 11-5 mark.

Top seed Menudo faded in the playoffs as they could not find the same spunk that allowed them to finish with a league-best 12-4 mark.

Fanians was third in the standings with a 10-6 slate similar to Ol'Aces. Some of Fanians wins were against teams that finished in the Top 4, including a stunning upset of Menudo in the early goings of

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JON PEREZ

YoYo's Amanda Poleo spikes the ball in this file photo taken during their first round game against Pikan Gaga in the women's division of the 2008 Indoor Volleyball Winter League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Trench Tech is more than MMA—Cuki

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Trench Warz and Rites of Passage series organizer Cuki Alvarez recently went around three Saipan public schools to educate the kids about mixed martial arts and its positive influence on a person.

Alvarez said Trench Tech is more than MMA as they also do their share in helping out the

TRENCH TECH

community by doing various projects that would benefit the people of Saipan.

Alvarez recently participated in several reading programs at San Vicente Elementary School and served as a guest speaker at Oleai Elementary School and Hopwood Junior High School for their Leadership and Career Day last week.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Trench Warz and Rites of Passage organizer Cuki Alvarez, center, is surrounded by students from San Vicente Elementary School in one of his recent visits for a reading session.

Action heats up in spring volleyball

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The second day of action in the 2008 Spring Break Volleyball Festival continued yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium with three teams remaining undefeated in three divisions.

Powerpuffs, Umangs, and Hilitai are still undefeated after yesterday's games. Powerpuffs have yet to lose after four games in the girls' 18-and-under division, while Umangs are on top at the 12-and-under boys with an 8-0 card and Hilitai with a 4-0 mark in the Under 14 girls.

Powerpuffs scored their fourth straight win with a 25-20, 25-19 win over Kagman High School, while Umangs went on a four-game rampage in the boys' 12-and-under first scoring a win against Koblerville Elementary School, 25-19, 25-14.

Umangs then defeated Hopwood Junior High School Galuphas, 25-14, 26-24, then won by forfeit against Team Tokka. They closed out their campaign with a 25-21, 25-17 win over Gaga.

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